

of outlaw country, and the beginnings of punk and disco, the book surveys 1973's diverse musical landscape. This lively, detailed narrative provides a backdrop of historical changes that were also roiling the world as the Seventies hit their stride. **VERDICT** Deeply sourced and entertainingly informative, Jackson's chronology of a transformative year in music, culture, and society may prompt debate (as well as playlist creation) and will appeal to a wide swath of readers.—**James Collins, Morristown–Morris Twp. P.L., NJ**

Klapper, Melissa R. Ballet Class:

An American History. Oxford Univ.

Mar. 2020. 400p. photos. notes. bibliog.

index. ISBN 9780190908683. \$29.95;

ebk. ISBN 9780190908706. MUSIC

Have pink tights and tutus always been a part of American girl culture, or does it just seem that way in certain neighborhoods and social circles? How have ballet classes for casual participants balanced grace, athleticism, modesty, affordability, and realistic goals over the past 100 years? Klapper (history, Rowan Univ.; *Jewish Girls Coming of Age in America*) explores ballet's place in American lives, as well as the positive and sometimes limiting perceptions of who can and should take ballet classes. This scholarly work moves quickly through a chronology of American interest in ballet and organizes chapters thematically around the business of teaching ballet, race and ballet, masculine and feminine stereotypes, body image, eating disorders, and more. More than 70 pages of notes and bibliography document Klapper's research using books, archives, newspapers, and picture books and young adult novels that depict ballet. While many view ballet class as a pursuit for upper-class, slender white girls, Klapper documents historical and current exceptions and looks at dance role models, from Misty Copeland and Michaela DePrince to contestants on *Dancing with the Stars*. **VERDICT** Of interest to dance historians and dedicated ballet aficionados. Consider for academic libraries.—**Maggie Knapp, Trinity Valley Sch., Fort Worth, TX**

Purcell, Carey. From Aphra Behn to Fun

Home: A Cultural History of Feminist

Theatre. Rowman & Littlefield. Dec. 2019.

210p. photos. notes. ISBN 9781538115251.

\$38; ebk. ISBN 9781538115268. THEATER

Theater critic Purcell presents a survey-primer on the complicated relationship between feminism and the stage. The author begins with the Greeks but focuses mostly on second-wave feminism and the last 30 years of the U.S.–British theater industry, taking readers through a quick tour of figures, movements, artists, characters, and productions that have shaped and challenged

the way Western culture regards women and feminism in theater. Loosely chronological chapters highlight key conversations, groups, and milestones in feminist theater. Fast paced and conversational, this title will please newcomers, though readers looking for depth on specific female playwrights, feminist plays, or the Aphra Behn era of cultural history may be left wanting more. **VERDICT** A solid, accessible overview of feminist theater from a Western, mostly 20th-century perspective. Recommended as an introduction to the subject, or for general fans of cultural histories.—**Robin Chin Roemer, Univ. of Washington Lib., Seattle**

Rifkind, Donna. The Sun and Her Stars: Salka Viertel and Hitler's Exiles in the Golden Age of Hollywood. Other Pr.

Jan. 2020. 560p. notes. bibliog. index.

ISBN 9781590517215. \$30; ebk. ISBN

9781590517222. FILM

After the collapse of Germany's Weimar Republic and during the rise of Hitler's Europe, thousands of artists and intellectuals streamed out of occupied countries, trying to beat the closing door and overcome restrictive immigration quotas to enter the United States. Many gravitated west to the sunny climes of Hollywood. There, one-time actor and screenwriter Salka Viertel opened her home for Sunday parties, offering memories of home and a place to exchange information and learn a new language and customs, while forging relationships. Rifkind (*Wall Street Journal*) offers an overdue appreciation of a neglected figure. A confidante to Greta Garbo, Viertel worked on five of the iconic actor's films, most notably *Queen Christina*. Among the many who crossed Viertel's path were playwright Bertolt Brecht, novelists Christopher Isherwood and Thomas Mann, and composer Arnold Schoenberg. She struggled with constant money worries, a long-distance marriage, and concerns about friends and family living in Europe under Nazism. **VERDICT** This is a study of a complex, openhearted woman who had a key role in saving the displaced while shaping mid-20th century Hollywood. Rifkind has penned a perceptive, exhaustively researched contribution to social and film history.—**Stephen Rees, formerly with Levittown Lib., PA**

Rosenberg, Jonathan. Dangerous Melodies: Classical Music in America from the Great War Through the Cold War. Norton.

Dec. 2019. 512p. photos. notes. index.

ISBN 9780393608427. \$39.95; ebk. ISBN

9780393608434. MUSIC

The subject of this book might at first seem obscure, even acknowledging that classical music once played a far more prominent role

in American cultural life than it does today. Imagine the selection of a conductor exciting nationwide comment, as it did in 1949 when the Chicago Symphony Orchestra offered a position to Wilhelm Furtwängler. Yet it's remarkable how much Rosenberg's (history, Hunter Coll.; *How Far the Promised Land?*) detailed study applies to current events and cultural discourse. His examination turns on the tension between nationalism and universalism, without ever declaring in favor of either. Instead, Rosenberg, a Juilliard-trained musician, highlights how global events and international politics impact aspects of cultural life that seem far removed from such concerns. The author convincingly argues that art, and discourse around art, does not take place in a vacuum—and that the tension he describes will never be truly settled. **VERDICT** A clear-eyed and perspicacious work for classical music scholars and fans and anyone interested in the intersection of politics and culture.—**Genevieve Williams, Pacific Lutheran Univ. Lib., Tacoma**

POETRY

Adaf, Shimon. Aviva-no. Alice James Books.

Nov. 2019. 100p. tr. from by Yael Segalovitz.

ISBN 9781948579056. pap. \$15.95. POETRY

Most American readers won't understand the original Hebrew of poems sitting edge to edge with their English translations in Adaf's fine collection, a meditation on the death of his 43-year-old sister. Nor are we likely to be familiar with the Talmudic, Rabbinic, and biblical references that color his lines. But in Adaf's incantatory efforts to keep his sister's spirit alive, we can recognize a universal need to stay the departed from being lost to the ages. As he writes in poem 24: "Noooooo, pain, don't let go—my heart, don't cease in sorrow/ blood, boil, flare, murmur, and body, burn, burn, burn, the nerves winding through the flesh, and you too/ muscles,/ catch fire, bones chafing the innards,/ pinch, scratch them some, so that abscess will emerge/ thus I shall not ask where her memory is—what oblivion might mime,/ thus I shall not let slip between my hands/ a sister into time." Patient readers will be amply rewarded by the rich images and charged language that give us a close look at an unfamiliar landscape from which to consider the world. **VERDICT** A deeply felt work that reveals both the poet's inner life and the political complexities of the world in which he lives.—**Iris S. Rosenberg, New York**

SPIRITUALITY & RELIGION

Imes, Carmen Joy. Bearing God's Name: Why

Sinai Still Matters. IVP Academic. Dec. 2019.

192p. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780830852697.

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