The general introduction provides a clear overview, while the individual chapters with primary sources furnish details, evidence, and interpretation. Highly recommended.—Caroly M. Craft, English, Philosophy & Foreign Languages Dept., Longwood Coll., Farmville, Va.

Music

Rock music. Dalton tries to unravel the twisted life and career of American folk singer Janis Joplin, basing the account on his interviews with the singer during a 1970 tour. He organizes the book into discrete chapters: some compare Joplin to the likes of Bessie Smith and Zelda Fitzgerald; another casts her as the prototype of the liberated woman; many contain heavy doses of rock ‘n’ roll history. A fine book and an excellent guide to entertain Janis Joplin lovers and to elaborate the special relationship between music and the human brain, Wilson, a neurology professor, discusses music from a neuropsychological perspective. Much as an athlete develops muscular skills to improve his sport, so the musician develops skill in small muscle movements to shape and perfect his performance. Wilson discusses the extraordinary refinement of human auditory perception, the biology of time, principles of learning theory, and some elements of plasticity, socially. It is assumed that almost anyone is capable of making music and at almost any age, so long as one is willing to practice properly and set realistic goals. The book is well written, interesting, and should be helpful to the amateur and would-be musician.—Bonnie Hoffman, CSW, North Fork Counselling Serv., Mattituck, N.Y.

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