

New Braille Music Resources Available from Opus Technologies

Opus Technologies is pleased to announce the availability of two new books on braille music: *How to Read Braille Music, 2nd Edition* and the *New International Manual of Braille Music Notation*. Each book is available in print, braille, and interactive multimedia CD-ROM for PC Windows.

How to Read Braille Music, 2nd Edition by Bettye Krolick is an update of the classic text for learning braille music that has been used by hundreds of blind music students and their parents and teachers. Written at a fifth grade reading level, this book is both a learning tool and a continuing resource for the braille music reader. It contains the music symbols most frequently found in elementary to intermediate level music, with concise explanations of their use. An index provides a handy tool for looking up braille music symbols. In this new 2nd edition published by Opus Technologies, the self-help teaching materials have been expanded with the addition of a section for guitar chords. All of the vocal examples have been updated to reflect the latest changes in the braille music code. The material on "Resources" is completely new, and "Tips for Sighted Music Teachers" has been added.

The *New International Manual of Braille Music Notation* explains the latest braille music signs and rules that have been adopted as the new international standard by 16 countries, including the U.S. and Canada. An invaluable reference for braille music readers, teachers and transcribers, this comprehensive manual is illustrated with over 250 examples of print music notation and their corresponding braille music notation. Tables of signs summarize the braille signs used in various musical situations, while detailed indexes make it easy to look up entries alphabetically or by braille sign. Previously available only by special foreign order, both the print edition (282 pages) and braille edition (3 volumes) are now available from Opus Technologies, the distributor for North America.

In a pioneering effort funded by a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Opus Technologies has developed interactive multimedia editions of these books on CD-ROM. A PC user can now access the complete text of a book on CD-ROM, view all the examples in music and braille notation, and listen to audio playback of the music. Detailed listings have been added to explain the meaning of every braille sign used in each example. Clicking a music notation symbol displays its corresponding braille sign, and clicking a braille sign displays what it means. Hyperlinks make it easy to navigate through the text. The reader can access index entries alphabetically or by braille sign, search the entire manual for specific words or braille signs, and print or emboss any topic. The CD-ROM editions require a multimedia PC with a CD-ROM drive and sound card, Windows 95 or later, and for blind users, appropriate screen access hardware and software.

Prices for *How to Read Braille Music, 2nd Edition* are \$12.95 (print), \$19.95 (braille), and \$79 (CD-ROM). Prices for the *New International Manual of Braille Music Notation* are \$79 (print), \$89 (braille), and \$149 (CD-ROM). Add \$5 shipping and handling per U.S. order (\$10 for Canada and Mexico, inquire for other countries).

Based in San Diego, California, Opus Technologies has been developing and selling software, print, and braille materials for learning and using braille music since 1992. We are also the developers of the *Opus Braille Font Pack*, the first commercially available collection of TrueType braille fonts for preparing print publications with simulated braille examples. Our customers include blind musicians and students, braille transcribers, parents, teachers and educators, and schools and libraries in the U.S. and around the world. Contact Opus Technologies at 13333 Thunderhead St., San Diego, CA 92129, USA, Phone/Fax: (858) 538-9401, email: opus@opustec.com, website: www.opustec.com.