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Writer and college instructor Havranek examines 24 female artists of iconic stature based on their influence, artistic and/or commercial success, and critical role in the evolution of popular music. Legendary figures such as Joan Baez, Joni Mitchell, and Debbie Harry are no surprise here, but also included are less recognizable but no less valuable names that may be unfamiliar to some readers. Although dedicated to solo artists, the work also includes iconic duo Amy Ray and Emily Saliers of the Indigo Girls. Havranek has pooled an impressive list of leading women from a variety of musical genres, including country, alternative rock, hip-hop, R&B, and folk. The text is rigorously researched, with each chapter running approximately 20 pages in length and providing an overview of the artist and an examination of her early years; career path; mission, motivation, and processes; and legacy and other interests. The only drawback is the scarcity of photographs throughout. **BOTTOM LINE** Dale Sherman’s *20th Century Rock & Roll Women in Rock* (Collector's Guide Pub., 2001) lacks the currency and diverse nature of the engaging and surprisingly cohesive *Women Icons*. From an introduction that weaves shared histories and destinies to a time line that makes for interesting comparisons of such a varied group of artists, Havranek’s work calls for a complete reading and as such is much more than a go-to fact book for a single artist. Recommended for a wide range of libraries. [Available electronically through Greenwood Digital Collection; ebk. ISBN 978-1-57356-783-1. ]—Daniel Sifton, Cariboo Regional Dist. Lib., Williams Lake, B.C.