

Escaping The Delta Robert Johnson And The Invention Of The Blues

Portrait Of The Blues Screening The Blues The Blues The Legacy of the Blues The Art of the Blues How Britain Got the Blues: The Transmission and Reception of American Blues Style in the United Kingdom The Story of the Blues The Voice of the Blues The History Of The Blues Getting the Blues The Language of the Blues The Devil's Music Born with the Blues Whose Blues? In Search of the Blues Conversation with the Blues CD Included Langston Hughes & the Blues The Roots of the Blues Escaping the Delta Listen to the Blues! Paul Trynka Paul Oliver Tony Russell Samuel Charters Bill Dahl Roberta Freund Schwartz Paul Oliver Jim O'Neal Francis Davis Stephen J. Nichols Debra Devi Giles Oakley Perry Bradford Adam Gussow Marybeth Hamilton Paul Oliver Steven Carl Tracy Samuel Charters Elijah Wald James E. Perone

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the story of blues music is the story of musicians meeting in bars playing for a meal taking trains to strange places with a guitar and the clothes they stand up in and working in automobile factories or paint shops to make a living some even made it big to the bright lights recording studios and television screens around the world this is that story told in a unique collection of first hand interviews with john lee hooker bb king buddy guy and many more legendary names along with the pictures of world famous photographer val wilmer taken over the last thirty years in the american rural south and urban blues centres like chicago new orleans and memphis these are the people and places that made the blues

the noted blues scholar paul oliver here examines the many different skeins of the blues form relating them to other black traditions musical and religious and tracing the origin of the blues through the dense many colored warp and weft of influences and inspiration he describes the dozens christmas rituals and the coded as well as blatant sexual imagery that has always been a vital element of every popular song tradition with extensive source notes photographs a discography and two indexes of song titles and singers this book serves as a sound serious and entertaining guide to the blues heritage that has vitalized so much of the world's musical culture

the blues tells the whole story of the evolution of the blues tracing its roots in the south following it to chicago new york and the west coast the blues inherited almost every kind of music from rock music to soul and jazz to country playing a key role in the creation of rock and roll

art and lives of twelve great bluesmen

this stunning book charts the rich history of the blues through the dazzling array of posters album covers and advertisements that have shaped its identity over the past hundred years the blues have been one of the most ubiquitous but diverse elements of american popular music at large and the visual art associated with this unique sound has been just as varied and dynamic there is no better guide to this fascinating graphical world than bill dahl a longtime music journalist and historian who has written liner notes for countless reissues of classic blues soul r b and rock albums with his deep knowledge and incisive commentary complementing more than three hundred and fifty lavishly reproduced images the history of the blues comes musically and visually to life what will astonish readers who thumb through these pages is the amazing range of ways that the blues have been represented whether via album covers posters flyers 78 rpm labels advertising or other promotional materials we see the blues as it was first visually captured in the highly colorful sheet music covers of the early twentieth century we see striking and hard to find label designs from labels big columbia and small rhumboogie we

see william alexander s humorous artwork on postwar milton records the cherished ephemera of concert and movie posters and chess records iconic early albums designed by don bronstein which would set a new standard for modern album cover design what these images collectively portray is the evolution of a distinctively american art form and they do so in the richest way imaginable the result is a sumptuous book a visual treasury as alive in spirit as the music it so vibrantly captures

this book explores how and why the blues became a central component of english popular music in the 1960s it is commonly known that many british invasion rock bands were heavily influenced by chicago and delta blues styles but how exactly did britain get the blues blues records by african american artists were released in the united states in substantial numbers between 1920 and the late 1930s but were sold primarily to black consumers in large urban centres and the rural south how then in an era before globalization when multinational record releases were rare did english teenagers in the early 1960s encounter the music of robert johnson blind boy fuller memphis minnie and barbecue bob roberta schwartz analyses the transmission of blues records to england from the first recordings to hit english shores to the end of the sixties how did the blues largely banned from the bbc until the mid 1960s become popular enough to create a demand for re released material by american artists when did the british blues subculture begin and how did it develop most significantly how did the music become a part of the popular consciousness and how did it change music and expectations the way that the blues and various blues styles were received by critics is a central concern of the book as their writings greatly affected which artists and recordings were distributed and reified particularly in the early years of the revival hot cultural issues such as authenticity assimilation appropriation and cultural transgression were also part of the revival these topics and more were interrogated in music periodicals by critics and fans alike even as english musicians began incorporating elements of the blues into their common musical language the vinyl record itself under represented in previous studies plays a major part in the story of the blues in britain not only did recordings shape perceptions and listening habits but which artists were available at any given time also had an enormous impact on the british blues schwartz maps the influences on british blues and blues rock performers and thereby illuminates the stylistic evolution of many genres of british popular music

featuring over 200 vintage photographs and a new introduction by the author the engaging informative volume brings to life the african american singers and players who created this rich genre of music as well as the settings and experiences that inspired them the author deftly traces the evolution of the blues from the work songs of slaves to acoustic country ballads to urban sounds to electric rhythm and blues bands oliver vividly re creates the economic social and regional forces that shaped the unique blues tradition and superbly details every facet of the music including themes and subjects techniques and recording history

some voices you will hear in the voice of the blues i sing blues for some money and i sing because i love em they tried to put me over in another bag but i just don t fit no other bag exactly i fits one shoe and that is the blues muddy waters i never did name one of my records the blues everybody else called my sounds what i made the blues but i always just felt good behind em i didn t feel like i was playin no blues i felt like it sound just as good to the spiritual people as it would to somebody in a bar jimmy reed the voice of the blues brings together lengthy interviews with pioneering blues performers including muddy waters howlin wolf little walter jimmy reed b b king and many others each interview captures the voice of the blues performer reflecting life experiences musical influences and achievements illustrations include rare archival photographs and documents a must for fans of the blues both traditional and electric

francis davis s the history of the blues is a groundbreaking rethinking of the blues that fearlessly examines how race relations have altered perceptions of the music tracing its origins from the mississippi delta to its amplification in chicago right after world war ii davis argues for an examination of the blues in its own right not just as a precursor to jazz and rock n roll the lives of major figures such as robert johnson charlie patton and leadbelly in addition to contemporary artists such as stevie ray vaughan and robert cray are examined and skillfully woven into a riveting provocative narrative

a vivid investigation of how blues music teaches listeners about sin suffering marginalization lamentation and worship

a comprehensive dictionary of blues lyrics invites listeners to interpret what they hear in blues songs and blues culture including excerpts from original interviews with dr john bonnie raitt hubert sumlin buddy guy and many others

this is the story of perry bradford one of the great originators and developers of jazz and blues and rock and roll way back when dust jacket

mamie smith's pathbreaking 1920 recording of 'Crazy Blues' set the pop music world on fire inaugurating a new african american market for race records not long after such records also brought black blues performance to an expanding international audience a century later the mainstream blues world has transformed into a multicultural and transnational melting pot taking the music far beyond the black southern world of its origins but not everybody is happy about that if there's no black no white just the blues as one familiar meme suggests why do some blues people hear such pronouncements as an aggressive attempt at cultural appropriation and an erasure of traumatic histories that lie deep in the heart of the music then again if blues is black music as some performers and critics insist what should we make of the vibrant global blues scene with its all comers mix of nationalities and ethnicities in whose blues award winning blues scholar and performer adam gussow confronts these challenging questions head on using blues literature and history as a cultural anchor gussow defines interprets and makes sense of the blues for the new millennium drawing on the blues tradition's major writers including w c handy langston hughes zora neale hurston and amiri baraka and grounded in his first person knowledge of the blues performance scene gussow's thought provoking book kickstarts a long overdue conversation

Leadbelly robert johnson charley patton we are all familiar with the story of the delta blues fierce raw voices tormented drifters deals with the devil at the crossroads at midnight in this extraordinary reconstruction of the origins of the delta blues historian marybeth hamilton demonstrates that the story as we know it is largely a myth the idea of something called delta blues only emerged in the mid twentieth century the culmination of a longstanding white fascination with the exotic mysteries of black music hamilton shows that the delta blues was effectively invented by white pilgrims seekers and propagandists who headed deep into america's south in search of an authentic black voice of rage and redemption in their quest and in the immense popularity of the music they championed we confront america's ongoing love affair with racial difference

first published in 1965 by cassell and co this classic and unique text in blues history conversation with the blues has now been re issued in a new larger format the book takes a slice across blues traditions of all kinds which were still thriving side by side in 1960 compiled from transcriptions of interviews with blues singers made by paul oliver in 1960 the book tells in the singers own words of the significance of their music and the turbulent lives it reflects it is accompanied by a fascinating cd slipcased on the inside back cover of the book which captures the stark ironic but moving narratives of the singers themselves included are guitarists pianists and other instrumentalists from the rural south and the urban north from famous blues singers who recorded extensively to singers known only to their local communities copiously illustrated with paul oliver's photographs the book provides a rare glimpse of african american music at a time when the south was still segregated

drawing on a deep understanding of the shades and structures of the blues steven c tracy elucidates the vital relationship between this musical form and the art of langston hughes preeminent poet of the harlem renaissance tracy provides a cultural context for the poet's work and shows how hughes mined african american oral and literary traditions to create his blues inspired poetry through a detailed comparison of hughes's poems to blues texts tracy demonstrates how the poetics structures rhythms and musical techniques of the blues are reflected in hughes's experimental forms the volume also includes a discography of recordings by the blues artists bessie smith ma rainey blind lemon jefferson and others who most influenced hughes updated in a new introduction by the author

discusses african folk music and its relationship with american blues

the life of blues legend robert johnson becomes the centerpiece for this innovative look at what many consider to be america's deepest and most influential music genre pivotal are the questions surrounding why johnson was ignored by the core black audience of his time yet now celebrated as the greatest figure in blues history trying to separate myth from reality biographer elijah wald studies the blues from the inside not only examining recordings but also the recollections of the musicians themselves the african american press as well as examining original research what emerges is a new appreciation for the blues and the movement of its artists from the shadows of the 1930s mississippi delta to the mainstream venues frequented by today's loyal blues fans

listen to the blues exploring a musical genre provides an overview of this distinctly american musical genre for fans of the blues and curious readers alike with a focus on 50 must hear artists albums and subgenres unlike other books on the blues which tend to focus on musician biographies listen to the blues devotes time to the compositions recordings and musical legacies of blues musicians from the early 20th century to the present although the author references musical structure harmony form and other musical concepts the volume avoids technical language therefore it is a volume that should be of interest to the casual blues fan to students of blues music and its

history and to more serious blues fans the chapters on the impact of the blues on popular culture and the legacy of the blues also put the genre in a broader historical context than what is found in many books on the blues the book opens with a background chapter that provides an overview of the history and structure of blues music a substantial encyclopedic chapter that focuses on 50 must hear blues musicians follows as does a chapter that explores the impact on popular culture of blues music and musicians and a chapter that focuses on the legacy of the genre a bibliography rounds out the work

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