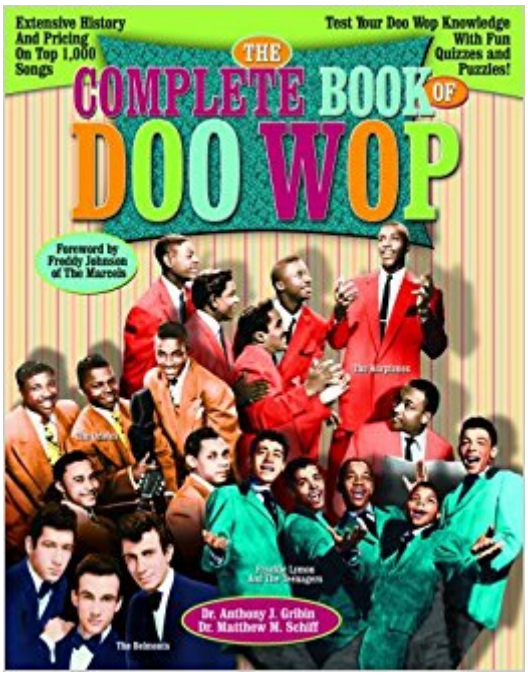
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Complete Book Of Doo Wop, The



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Synopsis

If you were a teenager in the 1950s and the early part of the 1960s, doo wop music conjures up memories of hanging out with friends at the candy store or malt shop, dancing at the hop, and first romances. This book will transport you back to those nostalgic times. The Complete Book of Doo Wop provides an extensive history of doo wop from the 1940s through the early 1970s, gives definitions and illustrations of the music that falls between rhythm and blues and Rock 'n' Roll, and covers the musical groups that created it, including Frankie Lymon and the Teenagers, the Platters, Little Anthony and the Imperials, Dion and the Belmonts, the Chiffons and the Shirelles. The book also features 150 photos, 64 sheet-music covers and an extensive songography. If you are a collector or enthusiast, vocal harmony fan, music historian or just a music buff, you will discover plenty of fun facts, stories and quizzes on doo wop songs and groups.

Book Information

Paperback: 496 pages

Publisher: Collectables; New 2009 Printing edition (January 1, 2006)

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Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Dr. Anthony J. Gribin and Dr. Matthew M. Schiff grew up and attended high school during the doo wop era. They met for the first time in 1975 and, roughly fifteen years later, decided to write a book on a subject they had always loved: doo wop music. Doo-wop: The Forgotten Third of Rock 'n' Roll was published in 1992. Years later, aware that there was much more of Doo wop's story to tell, they have written this book. Dr. Gribin, a clinical psychologist, and Dr. Schiff, a child and adolescent psychiatrist, both live in New Jersey.

This book obviously was a labor of love for its authors. Unfortunately, that does not mean it’s a great book.At 496 pages in a large format, it contains a lot of information, including many black-and-white photos. More than 200 of those pages are a listing, by artist (which they call a "songography"), of perhaps 20,000(!) doo wop songs. There’s also a somewhat more detailed list of what the authors consider "The Best 1,000 Doo-Wop Songs". This list is not ranked from #1 to #1,000, however; it also is alphabetical by artist. Neither list has a corresponding index by song title.The 22 chapters look at doo wop from a number of angles, including geography, record labels, disc jockeys, vocal parts, gender, and race. There are numerous puzzles and quizzes for trivia freaks. Both the authors are from the New York City area, and that has strongly influenced the book’s point of view.If you are from New York and are a doo wop junkie, this book may be just right for you. Otherwise, perhaps not.If you are looking for a reasonably objective, yet concise, treatment of the subject, this is not it.If you are new to doo wop and are looking for an easily digestable introduction to the topic, it’s not that, either.If you’re from another part of the country, be prepared for incomplete and sometimes inaccurate information on doo wop from your region.And if you’re a librarian or a disc jockey looking for a useful reference book (like the ones Joel Whitburn produces), this is not that book, either.The photos look like bad photocopies. There are maps, but they’re not well-executed. There is no index, an unforgivable omission in a reference book, or in any non-fiction book, for that matter. The inclusion of footnotes and a bibliography does not atone for that glaring shortcoming. The text tends to ramble and would have benefitted from some good editing.Despite all those shortcomings I give it three stars instead of two because there IS a lot of information here. I give it three stars rather than four because, unless you read it cover-to-cover, you may never find the information you’re looking for, and neither the text nor the typography lends itself to plodding through almost 500 pages.

This is a must have for all Doo Wop fans. It was written by two guys that hail from Philly. Very informative. I wish they published another. This was a replacement for my original, was the first printing. It is very hard to find.

Excellent book invaluable information about the genre

I’ve been a fan of doo-wop music for a long time. I already had an earlier version (2000) of the book that showed some heavy use. The key part of the book was 230 pages of song data by artists groups. I knew that numerous record labels (at least their current owners) had released MANY CDs & DVDs that contained tracks not included in the year 2000 book. It seemed that a new book by the

same name and authors would have new material but this was not the case. The NEW (?) book had simply copied the 230 pages and included them.... VERY DISAPPOINTING!BTW, I don't seem to be able to give the book less than one star... another disappointment. If you don't have the earlier book the new one is better than nothing but now VERY incomplete.

THANKS!

Great guitar book

I don't know the first printing of this, but if i could still get it for reasonable buck, i won't doubt it, because collectables made such a nasty work reissuing this great body of work in such poor conditions

Print way too small. Did a very cheap job of printing it!

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