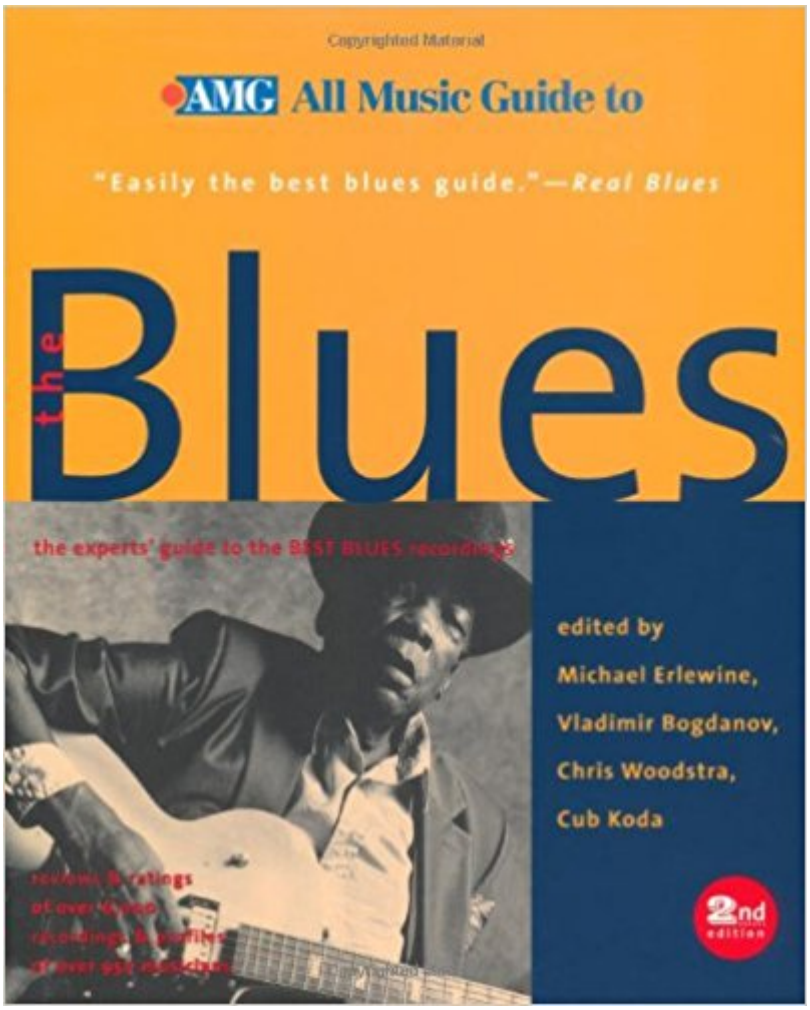
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All Music Guide To The Blues: The Experts' Guide To The Best Blues Recordings (2nd Ed)



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Synopsis

For blues aficionados everywhere, this is a complete guide to the uniquely American world of the blues. The roots of the blues can be found in the turn-of-the-century Mississippi Delta, but today its reach extends into all kinds of music including rock, jazz, country, soul, and more. The blues is everywhere, on CD reissues and box sets, in small clubs and concerts, in movies and on TV - indeed, the influence of the blues extends throughout popular culture. However, anyone who wants to really explore the blues can face a daunting task when visiting a music store these days. Most well-stocked shops have a decent selection of blues recordings. But there are dozens of Lightnin' Hopkins CDs available; which are the good ones? Which one do you buy first? This book will steer you straight to the best releases for every artist and compilation listed. You'll also see the occasional "buyer beware alert, " so that you don't get stuck with an inferior CD or tape. Designed for devoted blues lovers and newcomers alike, this book explores the blues from the Mississippi Delta to modern electric blues and everything in between. Special features include biographies of more than 560 blues artists and groups; reviews and ratings of the best recordings of each performer - more than 2,600 in all; historical essays and "music maps" charting the roots and evolution of the blues, its styles, instruments, key artists, and more; special section on exploring the blues influence in jazz; and blues resources, including book reviews, magazine listings, record companies, and mail-order sources.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The New Blackwell Guide to Recorded Blues. Blackwell. Dec. 1996. c.448p. permanent paper. ed. by John Cowley & Paul Oliver. index. LC 96-12140. ISBN 0-631-20163-7. $49.95; pap. ISBN 0-631-19639-0. $19.95. Blackwell has distinguished itself as a publisher of music guides, and its latest offering upholds the high standards set by previous ones, including the blues guide (The Blackwell Guide to Blues Records, LJ 12/89) updated here. As is generally true of Blackwell guides, the coverage is selective rather than exhaustive; in this case, the book consists of 11 discographical essays, each covering a period in blues history and recommending around 50 recordings as either "essential" or "basic" to a blues library. The essays are consistently well written and extremely informative. More that simply guiding the reader to good blues recordings, they also provide a remarkably thorough overview of the history and development of specific artists and styles. Each citation includes a catalog number and complete track list. A number of the recordings cited are UK-only releases, which limits somewhat the guide's usefulness to American readers. Still, this guide should find a place in most academic music collections. (Index not seen.) Where the Blackwell guide offers impressive depth, the All Music guide offers impressive breadth. Those familiar with the "All Music Guide" series know exactly what to expect here: a huge number of brief reviews and artist biographies covering almost every blues artist one can think of, as well as several useful appendixes on instrumental and regional styles and numerous charts illustrating webs of influence among artists and the connections among blues subgenres. As is also generally the case with All Music guides, the rating system is so ambiguous as to be almost meaningless, and the writing is uneven in quality. Not all research collections will need it, but this guide can be confidently recommended as a resource for the nonspecialist reader.?Rick Anderson, Penacook, N.H.Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

[PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED D 15 94, under All Music Guide to Jazz.] --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This massive, well-researched tome about blues music is as good as it gets. My book has become so dog-eared, I'm thrilled to see an updated edition has finally come out. I will be investing in it, and am hungry to read what these blues experts have to say about the state of blues with the newcomers to the scene over the past ten years.When a friend gave me this book about 5 years ago, I was hungry to learn all I could about the history of the blues. I've been a blues lover since my

childhood (I was raised in Chicago in the sixties,) and grew up seeing such greats as James Cotton and other old-timers. They would show up in blues bars to jam with lesser-known artists. I feel enriched for having experienced that. Reading this book, I recognize that I was a part of blues history, but didn't know it at the time.This fabulous book is essential reading for those eager to learn about our blues heritage. It's well organized, divided into sections about regional blues, the evolution of various blues styles, artists, it's all there. You will not regret your purchase. If not for the early blues pioneers covered between these pages, there would be no rock n roll.

This alphabetically arranged Lexicon helps readers to make sense of the dizzying list of blues artists who have contributed to thise body of music. The book is fairly broad and includes many crossover type bands (blues derivation of Rock, for example), with a brief history and list of essential recordings from each artist.I expected the book to be somewhat more "readable" rather than a catalogue of artists; however, it is useful as the latter. You will not be disappointed with the volume, and you will probably pull it out frequently when shopping for blues music, reviewing artists heard on public radio's blues shows, or when browsing the internet for non-copyrighted blues recordings (many of the oldest recordings are in public domain).The price also makes it worthwhile. If it guides you toward a single, more satisfying blues recording (or helps you avoid a single stinker), then it's paid for itself.

This is a perfect starting point for anyone who wants to get immersed in blues music. The Blues volume (I bought Rock, Jazz and Blues) includes artists and listings for artists that cross over from Rock (Led Zeppelin) and Jazz as well as contemporary and classic blues artists. If you were going to quibble, you might complain there's too much filler here, that those who are primary known as rock artists (Cream, Zeppelin, ZZ Top, etc.) ought to appear only under that umbrella. Okay. But maintaining such a wide view is exactly what makes this volume useful. REQUIRED READING AND REFERENCE material.

EXCELLENT BOOK OF INFORMATION OF THE BLUES.ESPECIALLY THE INFORMATION ON THE INSTRUMENTS THE ARTIST USE.THE RIGHT ALBUMS.

nice book and pretty much complete cataloging of all the blues masters and their origins and influence is covered.

This Book has everything You need to know about the Blues. Short Biographies about the Blues men and women,1-5 "Diamonds" ranking their Records and a "Star" about the Record You should have. Reviews of Thousands of CDs and Essays about different Blues styles. Over 600 pages pure real thing. Get this Book and You got a new Life.

must have for blues fans

I've read them all and this is the very best of all the blues guides available. While some of the reviews are inconsistant as are the recommended CDs, reviews and recommendations by Bill Dahl and Cub Coda, which account for most of them, are 100% on the mark every time. It is an excellent way start a killer blues library and avoid the less than desirable CDs and save yourself some money. This is the one to buy.

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