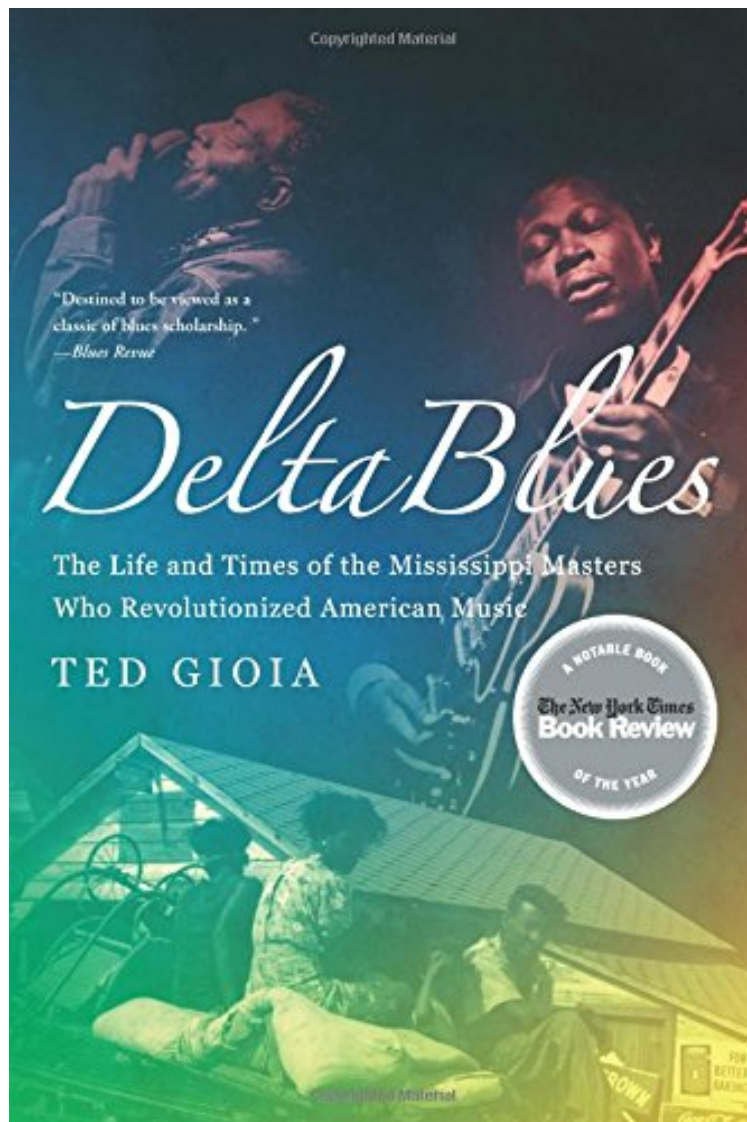


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Delta Blues: The Life and Times of the Mississippi Masters Who Revolutionized American Music

Ted Gioia

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#206562 in Books Ted Gioia 2009-11-02 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.30 x 1.20 x 5.60l, .90 #File Name: 0393337502464 pages Delta Blues The Life and Times of the Mississippi Masters Who Revolutionized American Music | File size: 59.Mb

Ted Gioia : Delta Blues: The Life and Times of the Mississippi Masters Who Revolutionized American Music before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Delta Blues: The Life and Times of the Mississippi Masters Who Revolutionized American Music:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Like an ethno-musicology course
By Islander This book is the equivalent of a college course in ethno-musicology. I thoroughly enjoyed the great detail about both the well-known and obscure contributors to the century of Delta blues music. Here's a hint on how to get the most out of this book: Whether you get the hard-copy or Kindle version, as you read keep at hand some audio access to these artists. I used Spotify to search for each artist, many of whom never recorded after the 1930's. Listening while reading the author's descriptions greatly enhances the value of this fairly lengthy read. By the way, I was not familiar with the author, but this writer is very skilled with the written word, and his descriptions are delightful to digest. Well worth the investment.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A great overview of one of America's musical treasures!
By Baberufus For those would like to dig deeper into the roots of American music, this book offers an excellent, thorough investigation into the pioneers that developed what has become to be known as Delta Blues, or alternatively known as Country Blues. Mr. Gioia is a fantastic writer...his style of writing evokes thoughtfulness, intelligence, and witty humor, all written in an elegant style without being hard to understand. The way he phrases his ideas utilizes the best combination of clarity and sophistication that I have ever seen!
For those like me who are already familiar with (and/or a fan of) Delta Blues, I still consider this book a must-read, as he delves into areas not tirelessly already explored in other writings, and he does a great job contrasting/comparing the music/lives of various artists that define the genre. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!**
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Deep dive into the origins of The Blues
By David J This is a pretty serious book that digs deep into the early days of the blues in the Mississippi delta and the many characters and mysteries that surround one of America's great gifts to the world. Presently I'm only about half way through, but I've already learned and confirmed a lot. If you love the blues and are fascinated by how the hard life of the African American slaves and their immediate descendants in the Delta led to the creation of this wonderful music and storytelling I recommend this book. Remember without the blues we probably wouldn't have rock and roll and how much poorer would our lives be without that, no Rolling Stones, not Eric Clapton no Led Zeppelin, doesn't bear thinking about. This book will tell you a huge amount about where it all came from and the incredible men and women that created this most American of art forms.

The essential history of this distinctly American genre.
Atlanta Journal-Constitution In this expertly researched, elegantly written, dispassionate yet thoughtful history (Gary Giddins), award-winning author Ted Gioia gives us the rare combination of a tome that is both deeply informative and enjoyable to read (Publishers Weekly, starred review). From the field hollers of nineteenth-century plantations to Muddy Waters and B.B. King, Delta Blues delves into the uneasy mix of race and money at the point where traditional music became commercial and bluesmen found new audiences of thousands. Combining extensive fieldwork, archival research, interviews with living musicians, and first-person accounts with his own calm, argument-closing incantations to draw a line through a century of Delta blues (New York Times), this engrossing narrative is flavored with insightful and vivid musical descriptions that ensure an understanding of not only the musicians, but the music itself (Boston Sunday Globe). Rooted in the thick-as-tar Delta soil, Delta Blues is already a contemporary classic in its field (Jazz Review). 38 illustrations

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Gioia (The History of Jazz) succeeds admirably in the daunting task of crafting a comprehensive history of the art form known as the blues, depicting the life story of the music from its cradle in the Mississippi Delta all the way to its worldwide influence on contemporary sounds. His sweeping examination focuses on the legends in detail, including Charley Patton, Son House, Tommy Johnson, Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, Howlin' Wolf, B.B. King and many more. He often deconstructs myths, such as the story that both Tommy Johnson and Robert Johnson made midnight deals with the devil at the crossroads, and digs deep to clarify many murky stories, including untruths and wild speculations about the life and early death of Robert Johnson. His narrative follows the northern migration of the blues to Chicago, where Muddy Waters recorded for Chess Records, and along the way he analyzes the influence of Delta blues on Elvis, the Rolling Stones and other rock 'n' roll icons. Gioia dissects many songs, but he doesn't write beyond the understanding of general readers, creating the rare combination of a tome that is both deeply informative and enjoyable to read. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
From Booklist A decade after The History of Jazz (1997), Gioia is back with some blues history. Even casual fans know the tales of deals with the devil in which the supplicant bargains for preternatural musical talents. Gioia merrily dissects those and other myths while, for all intents and purposes, comprehensively updating Robert Palmers Deep Blues (1981). Applying sound research methods, Gioia addresses the contention that the blues masters weren't trying to create great art but merely trying to eke out a living by pointing out that the artistry latter-day fans decry results from their dedication as performers, regardless of aesthetic intentions. Adherence to internalized stock artistic conceits, amplified by cultural isolation, eventuated in a body of art almost in spite of the fortunes of the individual performers. And speaking of individual performers, Gioia updates the biographies of blues players from legendary dealer-with-the-devil Robert Johnson to B. B. King, according special attention to less-celebrated musicians, such as Reverend Robert Wilkins, whose That's No Way to Get Along became the Rolling Stones Prodigal Son. --Mike Tribby "...the passionate blues singing of Mississippi's steamy cotton fields

ultimately gave rise to rock'n'roll. Ted Gioia expertly traces its colourful history and heroes." Books of the Year 2008, The Economist "[A] rich and illuminating study... Gioia, who has researched thoroughly and listened carefully, does a splendid job of telling the story on a broad canvas..." Mick Brown, The Daily Telegraph "Gioia's depth of research is breathtaking...The author's sheer passion for the music comes through on every page, and you can almost hear those old shellac 78s as you read his descriptions." thebookbag.co.uk "He uses original research, interviews with reliable sources and his own calm, argument-closing incantations to draw a line through a century of the Delta blues." International Herald Tribune "Gioia's intermittently brilliant and always compelling investigation of the blues is marked with a musician's ear for the form and a fan's enthusiasm for both the recordings and the artists." The Herald