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Elijah Wald

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Goes Electric!

Newport, Seeger, Dylan, and the Night That Split the Sixties

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#371217 in Books Wald Elijah 2015-07-14 2015-07-14Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x 1.17 x 5.75l, .0 #File Name: 0062366688368 pagesDylan Goes Electric Newport Seeger Dylan and the Night That Split the Sixties | File size: 54.Mb

Elijah Wald : Dylan Goes Electric!: Newport, Seeger, Dylan, and the Night That Split the Sixties before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dylan Goes Electric!: Newport, Seeger, Dylan, and the Night That Split the Sixties:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Dylan Goes Electric: A great American cultural history of the 1960s.By Daniel J. GartrellIf you are a Dylan devotee, this book is a detailed, readable, objective account of Dylan's

life through that famous/infamous night at the Newport Folk Festival. Wald does an excellent job of tracing the times and the people that in sum-total lead to the inevitability of this 20th Century Icon plugging a cord into his guitar. The story articulates: the rise of folk-rock as a synthesis of its foundational forms (including blues), the juxtaposition of Dylan and Pete Seeger leading up to the cultural transformation, and the impact Dylan's music has had on so many musicians (of many genres) who came after him. Only small criticism is that one group, The Grateful Dead, is not mentioned in the discussion, and probably should have been. A great cultural history of the 1960s.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Demythologizing By Manley Peebles Wald does what so few writers on popular music manage to do--he offers an historical argument. There is as much here about Pete Seeger and the folk revival scene as there is about Dylan. Reflecting his deep immersion in a variety of source materials, Wald contextualizes Dylan's (in)famous electric kiss-off better than any other writer I've read. In the process, he demythologizes and historicizes it. This is no simple-minded paean to Dylan-the-Genius. Instead, it is a brilliant exposition that illustrates how committed yet precious many of the Newport folkies were, yet also how diffident and careless Robert Zimmerman already was by 1965-66. As befits a truly great book, it offers no easy or definitive answers, and leaves the reader with more questions than when he first opened it.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. Elijah Wald is one of the best musicologists I've ever read By customer Elijah Wald is one of the best musicologists I've ever read. His *How the Beatles Destroyed Rock n' Roll* is eyeopening, and this history of Dylan's electronic move shows the underlying revolutionary changes that were happening in the mid-1960s. Incidentally, Wald's father was a Nobel-Prize winning biologist and anti-Vietnam War activists and his mother, Ruth Hubbard, is a brilliant feminist biologist. Elijah understands the political climate of the 1960s like no other musicologist. He's also a player, so he understands the music from the inside.

One of the music worlds pre-eminent critics takes a fresh and much-needed look at the day Dylan went electric at the Newport Folk Festival, timed to coincide with the events fiftieth anniversary. On the evening of July 25, 1965, Bob Dylan took the stage at Newport Folk Festival, backed by an electric band, and roared into his new rock hit, Like a Rolling Stone. The audience of committed folk purists and political activists who had hailed him as their acoustic prophet reacted with a mix of shock, booing, and scattered cheers. It was the shot heard round the world Dylans declaration of musical independence, the end of the folk revival, and the birth of rock as the voice of a generation and one of the defining moments in twentieth-century music. In *Dylan Goes Electric!*, Elijah Wald explores the cultural, political and historical context of this seminal event that embodies the transformative decade that was the sixties. Wald delves deep into the folk revival, the rise of rock, and the tensions between traditional and groundbreaking music to provide new insights into Dylans artistic evolution, his special affinity to blues, his complex relationship to the folk establishment and his sometime mentor Pete Seeger, and the ways he reshaped popular music forever. Breaking new ground on a story we think we know, *Dylan Goes Electric!* is a thoughtful, sharp appraisal of the controversial event at Newport and a nuanced, provocative, analysis of why it matters.

Provides a deeply researched and entertaining chronicle of the culture clash that Dylan sparked from the Newport stage. (David Remnick, *The New Yorker*) It is a great work of scholarship, brimming with insight among the best music books I have ever read. (The Guardian) Wald contextualizes the deeply divisive event in illuminating detail . . . a major contribution to modern musical history. (Booklist (starred review)) Wald is a superb analyst of the events he describes. And his analyses fly in the face of conventional wisdom. Even his introduction includes enough startling context to indicate *Dylan Goes Electric!* will be seeing the old story with new eyes. (Janet Maslin, *New York Times*) Walds personal knowledge seems encyclopedic . . . An enjoyable slice of 20th-century music journalism. (Kirkus s) Anyone interested in Dylan, folk music, or rock and roll will adore this volume. It might not resolve the questions of what really happened in Newport in 1965, but it comes very close. (Library Journal) In this tour de force, Elijah Wald complicates the stick-figure myth of generational succession at Newport by doing justice to what he rightly calls Bob Dylans declaration of independence . . . This is one of the very best accounts Ive read of musicians fighting for their honor. (Todd Gitlin, author of *The Sixties* and *Occupy Nation*) What Wald reveals about that most mystified of singer-songwriters and the folk and rock worlds that then surrounded and elevated him changed my own view of a moment I thought I had all figured out--and of the songwriterly 1960s as a whole. (Ann Powers, author of *Weird Like Us: My Bohemian America* and, with the artist, Tori Amos: *Piece by Piece*) Devastatingly smart analysis . . . Wald is a remarkably sharp and graceful writer, capable of drawing extraordinary connections between artists, genres, and cultural moments. There's simply no one better when it comes to unpacking not just the mechanics of American music, but the mythology of American music. (Amanda Petrusich, author of *Do Not Sell At Any Price: The Wild, Obsessive Hunt for the World's Rarest 78rpm Records*) Elijah Walds book reflects the many directions in which Americas music scene evolved in those extraordinary years, 1963-1970--I cant recommend it enough. (George Wein, Founder of the Newport Folk Festival) Concise and entertaining . . . a great story, masterfully told, of how the times were, indeed, a-changin--and why. (Ed Ward, rock and roll historian for NPR's *Fresh Air* with Terry Gross and author of *Michael Bloomfield: The Rise and Fall of an American Guitar Hero*) Easily the definitive account of Newport 65.

(CounterPunch Magazine)There is no shortage of books about Bob Dylan . . . but Elijah Walds heavily researched book manages to offer new information and unique insight into the social context of this controversial moment in music history. (Buzzfeed)From the Back CoverOn the evening of July 25, 1965, Bob Dylan took the stage at the Newport Folk Festival. Backed by an electric band, he roared into a blistering version of Maggies Farm, followed by his new rock single, Like a Rolling Stone. The audience of committed folk purists and political activists who had hailed him as their acoustic prophet reacted with a mix of shock, boos, and scattered cheers. It was the shot heard round the worldDylans declaration of musical independence, the end of the folk revival, and the birth of rock as the voice of a generationand one of the defining moments in twentieth-century music.In Dylan Goes Electric! Elijah Wald explores the cultural, political, and historical roots and impact of this seminal event. He delves deep into the folk revival and its intersections with the civil rights movement, the rise of rock, and the tensions between traditional and groundbreaking music to provide important insights into Dylans artistic evolution, his special affinity to blues, his complex relationship to the folk establishment and his sometime mentor Pete Seeger, and the ways he reshaped popular music forever.About the AuthorElijah Waldis a writer and musician whose books include Escaping the Delta: Robert Johnson and the Invention of the Blues and How the Beatles Destroyed Rock n Roll: An Alternative History of American Popular Music. A respected expert on the folk revival, he collaborated with Dave Van Ronk on The Mayor of MacDougal Street, the inspiration for the Coen Brothers film Inside Llewyn Davis. His awards include a 2002 Grammy, and he has taught blues history at UCLA and lectured widely on American, Mexican, and world music. He currently lives in Medford, Massachusetts.