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The Winding Stream: An Oral History Of The Carter And Cash Family



Synopsis

There is a stream that courses through American roots music. Its source is in the Appalachian foothills in a place called Maces Springs, Virginia. It was there that A.P. Carter, his wife Sara, and his sister-in-law Maybelle began their careers as three of the earliest stars of country music. These three didn't just play the music emerging from their hill country upbringing. They helped invent it. The stream these three created turned into a rushing river and moved through several generations of musicians, most notably touching the life of one Johnny Cash who first heard the Carters' " including a young June Carter " over the airwaves. It was a wonderful twist of fate when Cash, as a Sun Records artist, first met Mother Maybelle and her girls, the Carter Sisters, and vowed to June that "I'm gonna marry you someday." The Winding Stream is an oral history that tells the tale of this important music dynasty. In their own words, family and friends, musicians and historians offer first-hand recollections and insightful observations that illuminate the Carter and Cash contributions to American popular culture.

Book Information

Paperback: 168 pages

Publisher: PFP (February 4, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0991427505

ISBN-13: 978-0991427505

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #697,829 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #396 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Country #2360 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > History & Criticism

Customer Reviews

The Winding Stream: An Oral History of the Carter and Cash Family by Beth Harrington is a companion book to documentary film. I so wish that I could see that film. My father loved the Carter family. He has passed away but I wish that I had thought to ask him if he had ever heard their radio shows broadcasted from Boarder Radio during the Great Depression. I do know that he knew about the whole family and he really would have enjoyed this book. Of course most people my age know about Johnny Cash and June Carter but they don't know about the patriarch of the family A.P.

Carter and Sarah, two who loved each other very much but they had to split up because they couldn't live together any more. This oral history is the memories of their children and their children's children and how Country Music got its true start. Some of it is hard to believe, but true. A.P. Carter aka Alvin Pleasant Carter grew up in Poor Valley, Virginia. This man full of restless energy never was a good farmer but he found his true purpose in collecting songs from the mountain people and later from many more places and reworking them to put the Carter stamp on all of them. Without that many of those songs would have been lost forever. Sarah came from the other side of the mountain and grew up in Rich Valley. Each Carter was very different from the other. June Carter was a comedian, her mother Maybelle was an extraordinary musician who picked up different instruments quickly and sneaked in bits of her own ingenuity in her music. When it came to Johnny Cash the Carter Family knew that he had a drug problem but they nursed him through it because they realized that he was worth saving. There is a lot more to this fascinating little book but I hope that you read it yourself.

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