



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

Ted Gioia

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“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

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