



Heroes of Blues, Jazz, and Country

Robert Crumb , Stephen Calt , David Jasen , Richard Nevins , Terry Zwigoff (Introduction)

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Anyone who knows R. Crumb's work as an illustrator knows of his passion for music. And all those who collect his work prize the "Heroes of the Blues, Early Jazz Greats," and "Pioneers of Country Music" trading card sets he created in the early to- mid-1980s. Now they are packaged together for the first time in book form, along with an exclusive 21-track CD of music selected and compiled by Crumb himself (featuring original recordings by Charley Patton, "Dock" Boggs, "Jelly Roll" Morton, and others). A bio of each musician is provided, along with a full-color original illustration by the cartoonist. A characteristically idiosyncratic tribute by an underground icon to the musical innovators who helped inspire him, "R. Crumb's Heroes of Blues, Jazz & Country" is a must-have collection for Crumb aficionados, comics fans, and music lovers alike.

Heroes of Blues, Jazz, and Country Details

Date : Published November 1st 2006 by Harry N. Abrams, Inc. (first published November 1st 1997)

ISBN :

Author : Robert Crumb , Stephen Calt , David Jasen , Richard Nevins , Terry Zwigoff (Introduction)

Format : Hardcover 240 pages

Genre : Music, Sequential Art, Comics, Art, Nonfiction, Jazz, Comix

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From Reader Review Heroes of Blues, Jazz, and Country for online ebook

Nick Bennett says

Great stuff, the country section was particularly interesting.

Bobby says

I've never been very attracted to Crumb's work although I understand his importance in the history of graphic novels & comics.

This book however was the perfect combination of art, music, and history. I was unaware of these card he originally created, but found the book interesting and it introduced me both in music and text to a variety of musicians.

Jim says

When you consider that this book is accompanied by a great CD album of great early jazz, blues, and country greats, it's a terrific deal. The book itself consists of a series of annotated trading cards designed by cartoonist R. Crumb for Yazoo Records releases some thirty years ago. Crumb's art is, as usual, wonderful; and the short descriptions remind us about how much great old music from the 1920s and 1930s is forgotten today.

East Bay J says

This beautifully put together book is really and truly outstanding. The combination of Robert Crumb's art with single page bios of various old time blues, jazz and country stars is a major success. If you want to learn a little about a whole lot of singers and musicians from the 20's and 30's, this is your source. Even better, the included CD contains 21 awesome songs from the catalog of Yazoo Records, recorded between 1927 and 1931. Listen while you learn! *R. Crumb's Heroes Of Blues, Jazz & Country* takes the cake and eats it, too.

Eric says

A Christmas gift from my sister, this is an exceptional collection of single-panel renditions of unheralded musical legends by the brilliant (if eccentric) R. Crumb. The collection was originally intended to be published as a set of trading cards--which tells you something of the book's format: the artist appears on one page, and a short paragraph about his or her life appears opposite.

It's a lovely book.

Tom says

a splendid collection of Crumb's trading card sets, in easily-accessible "book" format, with a cracking CD of scratchy gems, like the Weems String Band, who all look like each other's cousins.

his craft - drawing old photos in his own cartoon style - gives these old time musicians the slightly weird depth that suits them.

if you don't like Crumb's world, you won't like this - but if you don't know him, it's a pretty good place to start

thom says

A great introduction to old blues, country and jazz records which even includes a CD to get you started. Some of the music is captivating, other more a little strange to modern ears. Crumb's illustrations are, of course, fantastic, but some of the anecdotes about the various bands are just as great. Altogether it's a great book - wonderful to flick through listening to the CD.

Michael Finocchiaro says

Robert Crumb was a collector of 78s from his earliest childhood. If you haven't watched it, the biography treatment of Crumb in the movie of 1994 by Terry Zwigoff is an excellent place to start and learn more about this scandalous and yet ingenious comic book artist. In *Heroes of Blues, Jazz, and Country* (for which there is a CD included), he takes a page to describe many artists you may never have heard of but each of which had an incredible influence on American music in the 20th and now 21st century. Each biography is accompanied by a Crumb illustration of the artist. A must for lovers of music and fans of Crumb.

Bruce says

Three sets of cards: *Heroes of the Blues*, *Early Jazz Greats*, and *Pioneers of Country Music* first published in the 1980s by Yazoo Records/Shanachie Entertainment are reproduced in this compilation. The Blues and Country sets were drawn in Crumb's distinctive style and then colored. The Jazz set was painted by him. The portraits taken from existing photographs represent the musical passions of Crumb. The accompanying notes by Calt, Jasen and Nevins give brief information about the musicians, their careers, influences, playing styles and when available their birth and death dates.

Michael Martin says

Absolutely incredible illustrations, with great accompanying text which will introduce you to forgotten

heroes of blues, jazz, and country music. Try to find a copy with the accompanying 21-track cd included...sadly, mine was missing it. I still loved the book.

Jim Wilson says

R. Crumb drawings of mostly forgotten early blues, jazz and country musicians with brief biographical notes. Typical R. Crumb drawings. There is a music CD included. Nice book for those interested in early music.

Richard Dees says

skip james "hard time killing floor blues" is on the cd that comes with the book and instantly became one of my favorite blues songs

Joshlynn says

I fell in love with R. Crumb around the same time I got interested in blues music, and I found out about his love for blues when I stumbled upon a Son House greatest hits with Crumb's portrait of House on the cover. It's a perfect drawing; the tilt of the head, the gauche coloration vs. the black and white of the original photo, and the wrinkles - oh, the wrinkles! R. Crumb made the music make sense. Were it not for that particular rendering of Son House, blues may have remained a historical oddity to me rather than a vital, blood-and-bones experience. In this collection, I think Son House is the only musician who was actually caught performing in the shot, while the rest of them are posing for the camera. The fact that Crumb can capture the humanity in an artificially-smiling face is mind-blowing. Crumb looks at an old faded photo of the Weems String Band and gives it life. Suddenly these aren't just bodies that recorded some music and then vanished. Crumb has found the people hidden in the tape hiss, and he draws (or in the case of the jazz set, paints) each face, each body, as if he knew them personally.

Jerry Oliver says

This was a very cool little book. This book brings together all of R. Crumb's illustrations he did for three early 1980's sets of trading cards featuring the Heroes Of The Blues, Early Jazz Greats and Pioneers Of Country Music. These excellent illustrations are accompanied by short bios of these intriguing musician and groups from first days early recorded American music. This is a fun collection for enthusiasts or a great introduction to artists like Son House, The Carter Family, Jimmie Rogers, Charlie Poole and many more known and very obscure musicians from the period.

Jeff Song says

Crumb put together a great collection of music on the CD that accompanies this book of his portraits of his Heroes of Blues, Jazz, & Country.

I think he is one of the masters of pen and ink portraiture.
