



MUSIC AMERICANA – FOLK, BLUES & COUNTRY ROOTS

A Guide to Collections in the Peabody Public Library

All music is folk music. I ain't never heard no horse sing a song. –Louis Armstrong

BLUES

The Blues has its origins in the American South. It is the music of a people who have suffered, struggled and yet remained strong and confident. A combination of spirituals, field holler songs and prison call and response work songs, the blues is a simple but powerful expression of emotions both low and high, wide and broad. Begun in the slave fields, it moved up the Mississippi to Chicago, over to the Eastern and Western seaboard and finally across the Pond to England, from whence it was “rediscovered” by White America in the 1960s.

The many flavors of the Blues give the simple I-IV-V 12 bar form its great variety.

Delta Blues

From the Southern Mississippi/Louisiana area – the “birthplace of the Blues” – this early form is dominated by solo acoustic guitar performances in a strictly 12 bar form. Typical artists are:

- Robert Johnson
 - Big Joe Williams
 - Charlie Patton
 - Son House
-
- Shake your boogie : live at the Old Capitol Building, Jackson, Miss., 1974
BLUES CD-2766 WILLIAMS
 - Nothin' but the blues
BLUES CD-308 WILLIAMS

Chicago Blues

When Blacks migrated up the Big River to Chicago,. They brought their Blues with them. They modified it with electric guitars, basses, drums and other combo instruments and added themes of big city existence. Rhythm and Blues, Rock and English electric Blues owe their origins to this permutation of the Blues. Representative artists include:

- Muddy Waters
- Elmore James
- Buddy Guy
- Howlin' Wolf
- James Cotton

- Living proof
BLUES CD-3518 GUY
- Skin deep
BLUES CD-3302 GUY
- The best of Muddy Waters
BLUES CD-307 MUDDY
- Muddy Waters at Newport, 1960
BLUES CD-1531 MUDDY WATERS
- The sky is crying
BLUES CD-296 JAMES
- King of the slide guitar
BLUES CD-297 JAMES
- Live from Chicago! : Mr. Superharp himself
BLUES CD-287 COTTON
- I got what it takes – Koko Taylor
BLUES CD-3276 TAYLOR
- Amtrak blues – Alberta Hunter
BLUES CD-294 HUNTER



MUDDY WATERS

Texas Blues

Another migration, this time to the west. Texas Blues has a more swinging feel to it. Originally acoustic, it too went electric in the 1940s.

- Albert Collins
 - T-Bone Walker
 - Blind Lemon Jefferson
 - Lightnin' Hopkins
- Blue lightnin'
BLUES CD-2848 HOPKINS
 - Midnight blues
BLUES CD-3638 WALKER
 - Collins mix : the best of Albert Collins
BLUES CD-282 COLLINS
 - Mojo hand
BLUES CD-292 HOPKINS

Electric Blues

This is really just a term for Chicago Blues that has gone travelling. Memphis (B.B King), Detroit (John Lee Hooker) and New York all produced the form and made it their own in many ways. Nevertheless, it still has Chi town to thank for its existence.

- B.B King
 - Albert King
 - John Lee Hooker
-
- Blues on the bayou
BLUES CD-1018 KING
 - Blues summit
BLUES CD-300 KING
 - The very best of John Lee Hooker
BLUES CD-1990 HOOKER
 - Makin' love is good for you
BLUES CD-868 KING
 - Blues at sunrise
BLUES CD-299 KING
 - The best of Albert King
BLUES CD-298 KING
 - B.B. King live "now appearing" at Ole Miss
BLUES CD-303 KING
 - Detroit blues – Baby Boy Warren
BLUES CD-291 HOOKER
 - Two steps from the blues – Bobby Bland
BLUES CD-2599 BLAND



JOHN LEE HOOKER

Country Blues

Cousin to the Delta Blues, country blues is most typically associated with fingerstyle guitar or harmonica and a more typically melodic tune.

- Big Bill Broonzy
- Brownie McGhee
- Mississippi John Hurt
- Leadbelly
- Reverend Gary Davis

- Masterworks
BLUES CD-3643 LEADBELLY
- Absolutely the best
BLUES CD-1418 LEADBELLY
- The southern blues
BLUES CD-284 BROONZY
- The real folk blues
BLUES CD-293 HOWLIN'
- The best of Leadbelly
BLUES CD3637 LEADBELLY
- Phantom blues – Taj Mahal
BLUES CD-649 TAJ MAHAL



LEADBELLY

Compilation Albums

- American blues
BLUES CD-2371 PUTUMAYO
- Men are like street cars : women blues singers, 1928-1969
BLUES CD-801 VARIOUS
- Blues masters sampler : the essential blues collection
BLUES CD-3516 VARIOUS
- Blues legends
BLUES CD-285 VARIOUS

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

The Blues Foundation

<http://www.blues.org>

Blue for Peace

<http://www.bluesforpeace.com/>

FOLK

TRADITIONAL AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC

DEFINING TRADITIONAL AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC

Traditional or “Real” folk music in this country has two obvious backgrounds: the British Isles and African. Lesser influences are from French, Spanish and Germanic traditions. The following is probably as good a definition of traditional folk music as can be had:

Traditional folk music is hard to pin down. It defies the rules and refuses to be type-cast. But, you can apply some common characteristics to American traditional folk music. Among them, American traditional folk music

1. *Has no known composer and, in some cases, has been adapted from a poem or other writings.*
2. *Contains simple words, phrases or melodies.*
3. *Is not written down, rather passed on through the generations by word-of-mouth.*
4. *Can be likened to oral tradition and storytelling.*
5. *Originates in a particular town, community, region or with respect to a particular cultural or ethnic group.*
6. *Has long given the common folk in a particular community a form of group expression.*¹

Colonial and British

The first American folk songs were adapted from songs of the British Isles, either in whole or with new and more pertinent lyrics. *Barbara Allen* is an example of the former, while *Johnny’s Gone for a Soldier*, based on the Irish song *Shule Aroon*, is of the latter persuasion.

Trans-Appalachian South

This is a reference to the music created by the Scots-Irish settlers who descended upon the mountains of Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and elsewhere after the discovery of the Cumberland Gap. Fiddle tunes, reels and ballads played on stringed instruments. This is the musical tradition that evolved into today’s Country Music. Songs such as *Cripple Creek*, *Sally Goodin*, *On Top of Old Smokey* and countless others.

The Old South

The domain of slavery, hot, humid summers and poor white sharecroppers, the South is home to work songs, spirituals, lost loves and lots of songs about food and drink. *Bluetailed Fly*, *Follow the Drinkin’ Gourd*, *House of the Rising Sun*, *Tom Dula (Dooley)* and thousands more familiar tunes are from this region.

Civil War

More than any other war, the American Civil War produced a plethora of folk tunes and lyrics. Some, like *John Brown's Body*, were based on older tunes (and in this case subsequently became *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*); others were originals and kept to the above definition of having no known authors but rather arising spontaneously from soldier's camps. Examples are *Goober Peas*, *Tenting Tonight* and *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*.

Westward Movement

Pioneers, miners, cowboys and farmers developed a varied bagful of tunes during the relatively short span of time that America moved beyond the Mississippi to the Pacific. The Old Chisholm Trail, Sweet Betsy from Pike, Wait for the Wagon, Green Grow the Lilacs, Streets of Laredo, and many more are still popular today, from Boy Scout Jamborees to campfire sing-a-longs.

Work Songs and other Disasters

Work, whether on the high seas, the railroad or the farm, has always been a subject for folk songs. Somehow, singing about could make it more bearable. Today we would probably have titles like The Carpal Tunnel Blues or Disaster at Cubicle 6b; back then it was *John Henry*, *Wreck of the Old 97*, *Wabash Cannonball*, *Big Rock Candy Mountain*, *Shenandoah*, *Blow the Man Down* and *Drill Ye Tarriers*, *Drill* just to name a very few.

TRADITIONAL FOLK RECORDINGS AT THE PEABODY PUBLIC LIBRARY

- People take warning [sound recording] : murder ballads & disaster songs, 1913-1938
FOWD CD-2799 VARIOUS
- If you ain't got the do-re-mi : songs of rags and riches
FOWD CD-2715 VARIOUS
- Modern times
FOWD CD-2604 DYLAN
- Classic railroad songs
FOWD CD-2558 SMITHSONIAN
- Dark holler : Old love songs and ballads
FOWD CD-2577 COHEN
- American folk
FOWD CD-2525 PUTUMAYO
- Classic folk music from Smithsonian Folkways
FOWD CD-2344 VARIOUS
- Classic maritime music : from Smithsonian Folkways recordings
FOWD CD-2427 VARIOUS
- Anthology of American folk music
FOWD CD-633 SMITH
- 200 years of American heritage in song
FOWD CD-3737 VARIOUS

- Classic protest songs : from Smithsonian Folkways
FOWD CD-3472 VARIOUS
- Lunar evening Joyce Fry
FOWD CD-1739 FRY
- Old Roads Joyce Fry
FOWD CD-1563 FRY

DUST BOWL FOLK REVIVAL

When the bottom fell out of the stock market in 1929 and the farmlands of the Great Plains blew away, the need for escape and entertainment remained. While Hollywood turned out fluffy musicals with sarcastic tunes like *We're in the Money*, rural folk heard the rough-edged sounds of Woody Guthrie, Big Bill Broonzy and Pete Seeger reminding them of their heritage and letting them know that better things lay ahead.

Spurred by the popular field recordings which Alan Lomax made for the Library of Congress, folk music became popular enough to even wedge its way into the pop music scene through artists like Burl Ives and Josh White. While using the themes and simple melodies of the traditional folk genre, many of these songs were written by the artists themselves or fell short of the traditional folk music definitions. This would lead to the extensive “modern folk” repertoire of the 1960s.

Pete Seeger

- For kids and just plain folks
CHIL CD-2229 SEEGER
- American favorite ballads
FOWD CD-3845 SEEGER

The Weavers

- The Weavers
FOWD CD-2721 WEAVERS

Woody Guthrie

- The Asch recordings. Vol. 1-4
FOWD CD-3844 GUTHRIE



Woody, on guitar, playing with his friend Pete Seeger around 1941.

WOODY AND PETE

Josh White

- 25th anniversary album
FOWD CD-3855 WHITE

Other Musicians of this era:

- Almanac Singers
- Burl Ives
- Cisco Houston

1960S FOLK REVIVAL

Ramblin' Jack Elliot

A musician who really lives up to the name, Elliott was born in Brooklyn, New York to Jewish parents and left home at 15 to join the rodeo. He taught himself the guitar and hooked up with Woody Guthrie and toured across the country and Europe. His smooth, easy storytelling style and fingerpicking guitar skills make him not only authentic, but memorable.

- Ramblin' Jack Elliott
FOWD CD-2717 ELLIOTT

Peter, Paul & Mary

PP&M probably did more for the folk revival going mainstream than any other group in the 1960s. Formed at the beginning of JFK's presidency, PP&M explored the social and political nature of folk music that they espoused was let to flourish after its virtual banishment during the McCarthy era.

The trio's smooth harmonies and clean guitar picking was seen by some as over sanitizing a traditionally rough medium (listen to their version of *Man of Constant Sorrow* compared to the one made popular in the film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*). Nevertheless, it can be said that they were responsible for bringing folk and social conscience to an entire generation.

- Carry it on
FOWD CD-3191 PETER PAUL & MARY
- Peter, Paul and Mommy
CHIL CD-2829 PETER PAUL & MARY
- Around the campfire
FOWD CD-3835 PETER PAUL & MARY

Joan Baez

With one of the most beautiful voices of any singer in any genre, Baez has been entertaining audiences since her early 1960s work in Greenwich Village, NYC. She has known, worked with and probably dated most of the major performers of the folk revival scene. Unlike some folkies, she has never strayed far from her roots.

- Greatest hits
FOWD CD-3133 BAEZ
- Classics. Volume 8
FOWD CD-3740 BAEZ
- Ring them bells
FOWD CD-3755 BAEZ



JOAN BAEZ & BOB DYLAN

Bob Dylan

Robert Zimmerman on Minnesota is often considered one of the driving forces of 20th century popular music. His electrification on the album *Highway 61 Revisited* brought him into the world of plugged-in, experimental pop-folk-rock form, drawing criticism from the traditional folk community. Only his first, eponymous album contains traditional folk music; the second through fifth albums are modern folk-protest songs.

- Time out of mind
FOWD CD-1664 DYLAN
- Blonde on blonde
FOWD CD-1794 DYLAN
- Highway 61 revisited
FOWD CD-1792 DYLAN
- Another side of Bob Dylan
FOWD CD-1796 DYLAN
- The freewheelin' Bob Dylan
FOWD CD-1795 DYLAN
- Blood on the tracks
FOWD CD-3756 DYLAN

Odetta

Odetta Gordon was born in Alabama in 1930 during the height of Jim Crow. Becoming a folk singer/civil rights activist was probably the most normal of pursuits for this early influence upon the 1960s folk revival.

- Odetta
FOWD CD-2718 ODETTA

Gordon Lightfoot

Ontario native Lightfoot is considered the dean of Canadian folkies. His songs were discovered and recorded by Ian & Sylvia, Peter, Paul & Mary and Marty Robbins before Gord burst onto the concert scene in the late 1960s. a solid song writer with hits like Early Morning Rain, Ribbon of Darkness and Softly to his credit, he became a chart topper in the early to mid-1970s with songs like If You Could Read My Mind, Sundown and Rainy Day People. He became a true legend when he penned the modern day disaster folk song The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald following the sinking of that lake freighter in November of 1975.

- Gord's gold
FOWD CD-138 LIGHTFOOT
- Gordon Lightfoot songbook
FOWD CD-1652 LIGHTFOOT
- A painter passing through
FOWD CD-767 LIGHTFOOT



Buffy Sainte-Marie

Like Lightfoot, Buffy Sainte-Marie is from Canada. A Cree Indian, she was born in Saskatchewan and developed both her musical talents and social conscience at an early age. A longtime proponent of Native Peoples rights, she is best known for her songs *Universal Soldier* and *Up Where We Belong*.

GORDON LIGHTFOOT

- Buffy Sainte-Marie
FOWD CD-2719 SAINT-MARIE

Ian & Sylvia

Canada has given the world a large number of folk and country performers and none stand higher in that country's esteem than the duo of Ian and Sylvia Tyson. From their beginnings in Toronto in the late 1950s to stardom in the new York folk scene of the 1960s, the pair not only made a name for themselves but for other aspiring songwriters/singers whose music they performed. Some of their own compositions include *Four Strong Winds*, *Someday Soon* and *You Were on My Mind*. They also covered early Lightfoot and Dylan songs, helping to bring these two to the attention of a folk-starved nation.

- Ian & Sylvia
FOWD CD-2716 IAN & SYLVIA

Judy Collins

Few musicians have had as eclectic a career as Collins, the Seattle-born songstress who made her debut as a pianist at age 13 playing Mozart. She soon became hooked on the folk music of Woody, Pete and others and released her first album in 1961. She had hits with traditional folk, contemporary folk (*Both Sides Now*) and even Broadway tunes (*Send in the Clowns*). Collins is also the subject of the Crosby, Stills & Nash classic *Suite: Judy Blues Eyes*.

- Paradise
FOWD CD-3268 COLLINS
- Singing lessons : a memoir of love, loss, hope, and healing
FOWD CD-675 COLLINS

Joni Mitchell

Back to the Canadians we go with Mitchell, who has had hits of her own, been covered by major artists, or has collaborated with celebrated musicians such as jazz great Charles Mingus. Among her best known compositions are *Both Sides Now*, *Woodstock*, *Big Yellow Taxi* and *Chelsea Morning*.

- Hand in hand : songs of parenthood
CHIL CD-1742 VARIOUS

Kingston Trio

Three clean-cut guys – Dave Guard, Bob Shane and Nick Reynolds – took the country by storm in the early '50s, playing clean-cut versions of folk songs and providing humorous banter for the crowds. With a few personnel changes, they have played into the 21st Century. It is not too much to say that they probably, more than any other group, brought the modern folk revival into popularity. Hits such as *Tom Dooley*, *Tijuana Jail*, *Scotch and Soda* and *The Ballad of the MTA* live on.

- Greatest hits
FOWD CD-3855 KINGSTON TRIO
- The Kingston Trio :from the "Hungry i"
FOWD CD-3854 KINGSTON TRIO

New Lost City Ramblers

Unlike other folk trios of the revival era, this group – Mike Seeger, John Cohen and Tom Paley – refused to “clean up” the old folk songs they played, preferring instead the way they heard the mountain music on old 78 RPM records.

- 50 years : Where do you come from? Where do you go?
FOWD CD-3856 NEW LOST CITY RAMBLERS

Arlo Guthrie

The son of Woody Guthrie, Arlo burst onto the scene in 1967 with his whimsical yet topical 23 minute talking song *Alice's Restaurant*. He has been performing ever since, sometimes for children, sometimes with his daddy's old partners (he has recorded several albums with Pete Seeger).

- Alice's restaurant
FOWD CD-3834 GUTHRIE

Other Musicians of the Era

- Tom Paxton
- Janis Ian

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

Folk Music Archives

<http://folkmusicarchives.org/>

Smithsonian Folkways

<http://www.folkways.si.edu/>

Library of congress American Folklife Center

<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/index.html>



THE KINGSTON TRIO

ROOTS COUNTRY

Roots music, roots country, old-time music or hillbilly music; the terms are only mildly descriptive of what is the basis of European influence on American Music. The popular term used by musicians nowadays is Americana, but that too is rather vague.

Rather than putting a name to it, it might be best to describe what it is:

- Based in the folk tradition
- Only of minimal commercial interest
- Resulting from self-taught musicians

- Using acoustic string instruments or percussion instruments
- Regional in its flavors

And what it is not:

- Mainstream, “Hit Parade” material
- Transient, flavor-of-the-week entertainment

This music has many modern offspring , from Nashville Country to Rock to Alternative Country to Bluegrass. Some of the more recognizable artists are given due lip service by their emulators while others reside in varying degrees of obscurity to all but aficionados and perhaps to the musicians themselves. Their legacy is wonderful and varied and you owe it to yourself to get in touch with your “roots.”

- 75 years of the WSM Grand Ole Opry: v.1
CTRY CD-1328 VARIOUS
- brother, where art thou?
SDTK CD-1612 VARIOUS
- Sun Records 50th anniversary box
RHBL CD-1752, 1753, 1754 VARIOUS
- Heroes of country music. Vol. one, Legends of western swing
CTRY CD-1075 VARIOUS
- Heroes of country music. Vol. two, Legends of honky tonk
CTRY CD-1076 VARIOUS

MOUNTAIN MUSIC

This form of American music is so old it’s almost NOT American. When the Scots-Irish settled into the impenetrable wilderness of the Appalachian Mountains during the 1700s, they took with them a European tradition on instruments and folk music that developed over time into the music that sociological pioneers like the Lomaxes found and brought to light. The famous Carter Family, A.P., Maybelle and Sara, brought this music down from the hills when they recorded it in the 1920s and 1930s; it was the beginning of modern country.

- Stoneman Family
- Carter Family
- Jimmy Rodgers
- Bascom Lunsford
- Skillet Lickers

- Elizabeth Cotton
- Delmore Brothers

HONKY TONKIN'

Not too far removed from Mountain Music is Honky Tonk. Taking its name from the smoky bars where it was performed, it utilized modern influences such as electrified instruments and jazz/pop rhythms. Decidedly more sophisticated and commercial, this form led to the “Nashville” style of country music against which roots musicians have been rebelling ever since.

Hank Williams

- Timeless
CTRY CD-2031 WILLIAMS
- The best of Hank Williams
CTRY CD-2901 WILLIAMS



HANK WILLIAMS

Roy Acuff

- King of the hillbillies : volume 1
CTRY CD-3655 ACUFF

George Jones

- The best of George Jones. Vol. 1. Hardcore honky tonk
CTRY CD-3725 JONES
- The essential George Jones: the spirit of country
CTRY CD-866 JONES
- My favorites of Hank Williams
CTRY CD-3726 JONES

Bob Wills

- Bob Wills
CTRY CD-3851 WILLIS
- For the last time
CTRY CD-3852 WILLIS

Other Honky Tonkers

- Ernest Tubb
- Lefty Frizzell
- Hank Snow

BLUEGRASS

What is the sound of Bluegrass? According to one of its pioneers, Bill Monroe, it is “Scottish bagpipes and ole-time fiddlin’. It’s Methodist and Holiness and Baptist. It’s blues and jazz, and it has a high lonesome sound. It’s plain music that tells a good story. It’s played from my heart to your heart, and it will touch you. Bluegrass is music that matters.”²

This high-powered form of traditional music is played by first class musicians with an energy level that never seems to drop. Bluegrass is sort of a “cult” form of country music that has spawned associations and festivals where lovers of the form gather to play, listen and visit.

Bill Monroe

While Monroe did not strictly invent Bluegrass music, he did name it by way of his band, The Bluegrass Boys. Monroe and his band fused Appalachian mountain music, old fashioned string band playing, gospel, jazz and blues into the high powered form of art known as Bluegrass. For many, the defining instrument of this style is the 5-string banjo, especially as played in the three-fingered picking style developed by Earl Scruggs, a Monroe band member from 1945-48. Other instruments “allowed” are fiddle, mandolin, guitar and upright bass. No drums, please!

- Shady grove
CTRY CD-2884 MONROE
- Bill Monroe & Doc Watson
CTRY CD-2881 MONROE
- The gospel spirit
CHRN CD-2883 MONROE
- Bill Monroe : the essential collection
CTRY CD-2882 MONROE
- 36 all-time greatest hits
CTRY CD-2880 MONROE
- Bill Monroe centennial celebration : a classic bluegrass tribute
CTRY CD-3734 VARIOUS



BILL MONROE

Stanley Brothers

Ralph and Carter Stanley hailed from Virginia, where they had a band that played old time string band music. When Monroe and his new sound hit it big, the Stanleys began to emulate them and, in many ways, ended up surpassing Monroe. The brothers had an amazing vocal melding, with Carter’s infinitely sad voice balanced by Ralph’s high, otherworldly tenor. They expanded from Bluegrass with gospel, honky-tonk and fiery instrumentals.

After Carter's early death in 1966, Ralph continued with the band The Clinch Mountain Boys and still performs to this day. He can be heard singing *O Death* in the film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*

- The definitive collection 1947-1966
CTRY CD-2712 STANLEY BROTHERS
- Echoes of The Stanley Brothers
CTRY CD-1529 STANLEY

Earl Scruggs

Not many musicians have a style of playing named for them, but Scruggs's three-finger banjo picking was unique for its time and pretty much ubiquitous today. His lightning-fast style is one of the hallmarks of Bluegrass. Hits include *Foggy Mountain Breakdown* from the film *Bonnie and Clyde* and *The Ballad of Jed Clampett* from *The Beverly Hillbillies*.

- The three pickers
CTRY CD-1825 SCRUGGS

Compilation Albums

- The bluegrass bible : 40 bluegrass gospel classics on 2 CD's
CTRY CD-3270 VARIOUS
- Bluegrass essentials
CTRY CD-1072 VARIOUS
- White dove : the bluegrass gospel collection
CHRN CD-1816 VARIOUS

Other Bluegrass Artists

- Flatt & Scruggs
- Osborne Brothers
- The Dillards
- Jim & Jesse

ROCKABILLY

Early Elvis

This has nothing to do with postage stamps, jump suits or weight problems; early Elvis was rockabilly through and through, with no sappy ballads, slick pop tunes or vapid movie songs. Try NOT to swivel your hips while playing rockabilly.

- Elvis 56
OLDS CD-380 PRESLEY
- The number one hits
OLDS CD-377 PRESLEY

Carl Perkins

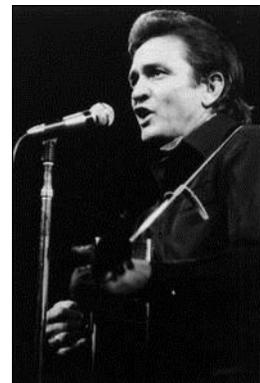
This son of a Tennessee sharecropper rose to become the “King of Rockabilly” and a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Recording for Sun Records in Memphis at the time of Elvis and Johnny Cash, his monster hit *Blue Suede Shoes* vaulted him to stardom. A gifted guitarist, Perkins influenced other early rockers with his syncopated style.

- Best of Carl Perkins
OLDS CD-3641 PERKINS
- Original Sun greatest hits
OLDS CD-2034 PERKINS

Johnny Cash

No singer of the 20th Century has had as profound an impact on so many forms of music as this sharecropper’s son from Kingsland, Arkansas. Country, folk, rock, gospel and blues were his domain and he ruled them all for over forty years, from his first recordings with Sun Records to his death in 2003. The “Man in Black” lived the life he sang, from working in cotton fields to languishing in jail. He wrote over 1000 songs, had hits with many traditional tunes such as Cotton Fields and Rock Island Line, other peoples’ songs (“A Boy Names Sue”), plus originals such as “I Walk the Line” and “Ring of Fire.”

- Bootleg. Volume III, live around the world
CTRY CD-3716 CASH
- Johnny Cash, 1955-1983
CTRY CD-1082 CASH
- The Sun years
CTRY CD-3717 CASH
- Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison and San Quentin
CTRY CD-12 CASH



- Johnny Cash's greatest hits
CTRY CD-5 CASH

JOHNNY CASH

Johnny Horton

Horton is best remembered today for two things: his hit version of the traditional *Battle of New Orleans* and the title song to the John Wayne film, *North to Alaska*.

- Johnny Horton's greatest hits
CTRY CD-368 HORTON

Roy Orbison

Texas native Orbison had one of the great voices of the era, with his quavering baritone lending an emotional edge to what is essentially twang. *Oh, Pretty Woman*, *Crying* and *Only the Lonely* have become standards.

- The legendary Roy Orbison
OLDS CD-622, 623, 624, 625

Other Rockabilly Stars

- Conway Twitty
- Marty Robbins
- Buddy Holly

CAJUN

Unlike other white folk music of America, this sound had its roots in France, not England. The original French settlers of Acadia (now Nova Scotia in Canada) were expelled from the area after the victory of the English in the French and Indian War of the 1750s. Forced to pack their accordions and fiddles, they moved to French-owned Louisiana.

Cajun music and its relative zydeco (a blend of Cajun, blues, and Caribbean rhythms) is infectious dance music. Try NOT tapping your foot while listening to some of these recorded treasures.

- SAM (Get Down) Sam Brothers 5
FOWD CD-2324 SAM BROTHERS 5
- Zydeco
FOWD CD-2395 PUTUMAYO
- Cajun music pioneer Joe Falcon
FOWD CD-1002 FALCON
- Vintage Beausoleil



FOWD CD-124 BEAUSOLEIL

- Mardi Gras!
FOWD CD-999 QUEEN IDA
- Stomp down zydeco
FOWD CD-433 ZYDECO
- Zydeco champs
FOWD CD-434 VARIOUS
- 101 proof zydeco
FOWD CD-352 VARIOUS

BUCKWHEAT ZYDECO

GUITAR HEROES – ROOTS STYLE

Traditional roots music is not just strumming, stomping and singing; there is some fine musicianship involved, with many virtuosos on guitar, banjo and mandolin. Some musicians have made quite a name for themselves exploring the instrumental limits of this type of music, especially on the guitar.

Merle Travis

Kentucky-born Travis was a singer-songwriter known for the hits *Sixteen Tons* and *Dark as a Dungeon*, as well as the novelty number *Smoke That Cigarette*. He also interpreted the traditional music of his mountain homeland. Beyond that, however, he was one of the most innovative and influential guitarists of the 20th Century. His finger picking style incorporated syncopated rhythms and helped to make the guitar a solo instrument in popular music through its blending of bass, melody and harmony.

- The Merle Travis guitar ; Walkin' the strings-- plus
FOWD CD-3594 TRAVIS
- I am a pilgrim
CTRY CD-3593 TRAVIS

Chet Atkins

A student of the Travis style, Atkins was also influenced by pop guitarist Les Paul and gypsy jazz virtuoso Django Reinhardt. He created a smooth blend of country, pop and jazz and became one of the most recognizable country stars, especially to non-country fans. His style is much emulated by guitarists today and is so versatile that it is capable of almost any musical genre (except maybe death metal).

- Pickin' on country
CTRY CD-39 ATKINS
- Neck and neck
CTRY CD-14 ATKINS

Doc Watson

Arthel Lane "Doc" Watson was born in the mountains of North Carolina and started playing guitar at an early age, busking on street corners as a teen in order to buy better instruments. Blind from the age of one, Doc got in on the ground floor of the folk revival in the early 1960s and landed a recording contract with the leading folk record company, Vanguard. Doc's consummate skill at flatpicking, combined with his pleasing voice and pleasant stage persona, have made him one of the legends of traditional music and the guitarist that every would-be picker tries to be.

- Black Mountain rag
FOWD CD-3585 WATSON
- Sittin' here pickin' the blues
FOWD CD-3586 WATSON
- Doc Watson
FOWD CD-2720 WATSON



DOC WATSON

Norman Blake

Blake is one of those musicians who is revered by other musicians, including Johnny Cash, Bob Dylan and others. His guitar work was much in demand in Nashville in the 1960s and 1970s. He left that work to concentrate on traditional music and recorded with Sam Bush and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band before striking out on his own. His combination flatpick/Carter style can be heard on *You Are My Sunshine* from the Coen Brothers Film, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*

- Green light on the Southern
FOWD CD-3700 BLAKE
- Essential recordings : sleepy eyed Joe
FOWD CD-3701 BLAKE

Tony Rice

Tony Rice spans the range of acoustic music, from straight-ahead bluegrass to jazz-influenced new acoustic music, to songwriter-oriented folk. He is perhaps the greatest innovator in acoustic flatpicked guitar since Clarence White.

- The bluegrass guitar collection
CTRY CD-3833 RICE

Other Roots Guitarists:

- John Fahey
- Leo Kottke
- Clarence White

Notes

¹American Folk Music: Yesterday and Today

M.G. Hardiman, <http://voices.yahoo.com/american-folk-music-yesterday-today-6334622.html?cat=2>

²Music Base

<http://www.musicbase.org/country/americana/bluegrass>

Web Sites of Interest

Old-Time Music Page

<http://www.oldtimemusic.com/index.html>

American Roots Music

<http://www.pbs.org/americanrootsmusic/index.html>

International Bluegrass Music Association

<http://ibma.org/>

Further Reading

Goin' back to Memphis : a century of blues, rock 'n' roll, and glorious soul

Dickerson, James.

NON-FICTION 781.64 DICKERSON

Nothing but the blues

Cohn, Lawrence, 1932-

NON-FICTION 781.643 COHN

The folk songs of North America, in the English language

Lomax, Alan, 1915-

NON-FICTION 784.497 LOMAX

American negro songs and spirituals ; a comprehensive collection of 25 folk songs, religious and secular

Work, John Wesley, 1901-

NON-FICTION 784.75 WORK

Man of constant sorrow : my life and times

Stanley, Ralph.

NON-FICTION 782.421642 STANLEY

George Jones : the life and times of a honky tonk legend

Allen, Bob.

NON-FICTION 782.42164 ALLEN

Cash 1st ed.

Fine, Jason.

NON-FICTION 782.421642 FINE

Cash : the autobiography

Cash, Johnny.

NON-FICTION 782.421642 CASH

Man in black

Cash, Johnny.

NON-FICTION 784.092 CASH

Hank Williams : the biography 1st ed.

Escott, Colin.

NON-FICTION 782.42 ESCOTT

Elvis, Hank, and me : making musical history on the Louisiana hayride

Logan, Horace.

NON-FICTION 781.642 LOGAN

Country music : the masters

Stuart, Marty.

NON-FICTION 781.642 STUART

The Illustrated history of country music 1st ed.

Carr, Patrick.

NON-FICTION 784 CARR

Ramblin' man : the life and times of Woody Guthrie 1st ed.

Cray, Ed.

NON-FICTION 782.42162 CRAY

Blues all around me ; the autobiography of B.B. King 1st ed.

King, B. B.
NON-FICTION 781.643 KING

The protest singer : an intimate portrait of Pete Seeger 1st ed.
Wilkinson, Alec, 1952-
NON-FICTION 782.42162 WILKINSON

Positively 4th street : the lives and times of Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Mimi Baez Fariña, and
Richard Fariña
Hajdu, David.
NON-FICTION 782.42162 HADJU

How can I keep from singing : Pete Seeger
Dunaway, David King.
NON-FICTION 784.4 DUNAWAY

Daybreak
Baez, Joan.
NON-FICTION 784.49 BAEZ

Chet Atkins : country gentleman
Atkins, Chet.
NON-FICTION 787.61 ATKINS