

# rolling stone encyclopedia of rock and roll

**\*\*The Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll: A Definitive Guide to Music History\*\***

**rolling stone encyclopedia of rock and roll** stands as an iconic reference work, capturing the essence and evolution of one of the most influential music genres of the 20th century. For music lovers, historians, and curious readers alike, this encyclopedia offers an unparalleled deep dive into the artists, albums, and cultural moments that shaped rock and roll. More than just a dictionary of names and dates, it's a vibrant tapestry weaving together the stories behind the music that changed the world.

## What Is the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll?

At its core, the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll is a comprehensive compendium published by Rolling Stone magazine, a legendary authority in music journalism. First released in the early 1980s, this encyclopedia has since undergone multiple updates to keep pace with the ever-expanding and evolving rock music scene. It features detailed biographies of musicians, band histories, album reviews, and insightful essays that shed light on the social and cultural impact of rock music.

The encyclopedia is widely respected for its editorial rigor and insider knowledge. Contributors include music critics, journalists, and industry veterans who bring firsthand experience and passion to their entries. This ensures the content is not only factual but also rich with context and anecdotal insights.

## The Importance of the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia in Music Culture

Rock and roll is more than just a genre; it's a cultural phenomenon that has influenced fashion, politics, and social movements worldwide. The Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll serves as a historical archive, preserving this legacy for future generations.

## Documenting the Roots and Evolution of Rock

One of the encyclopedia's key strengths is its ability to trace rock's roots back to blues, jazz, country, and gospel. It contextualizes how these genres intertwined to create the sound that exploded in the 1950s and evolved through decades into countless subgenres, from psychedelic rock and punk to grunge and alternative.

## Highlighting Influential Artists and Bands

Whether you want to learn about the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, or lesser-known pioneers like Sister Rosetta Tharpe, the encyclopedia provides in-depth profiles. These entries explore not just the music but the personalities, struggles, and innovations that made these artists iconic.

## How the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll Stands Out

With so many music reference books available, what makes this encyclopedia particularly valuable? Here are a few reasons:

- **Comprehensive Coverage:** It covers thousands of artists, spanning multiple decades and styles within rock and roll.
- **Authoritative Voice:** Written and edited by experts associated with Rolling Stone magazine, it carries credibility and insider perspective.
- **Rich Visuals:** Many editions feature rare photographs, album covers, and memorabilia that bring the stories to life.
- **Updated Editions:** The encyclopedia evolves continuously, reflecting new artists, trends, and historical insights.

## Comparisons to Other Music Encyclopedias

While other references like the All Music Guide or The Virgin Encyclopedia of Popular Music also offer extensive information, the Rolling Stone edition is often preferred for its editorial voice and focus on rock's cultural significance. Its narrative style makes reading it feel more like exploring a storybook of music history rather than flipping through a dry reference manual.

## Using the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia for Research and Enjoyment

Whether you're a student working on a paper, a DJ curating a playlist, or simply a fan wanting to deepen

your knowledge, this encyclopedia can be an invaluable resource.

## Tips for Getting the Most Out of the Encyclopedia

1. **Start with Your Favorite Artists:** Begin by exploring entries on bands or singers you love, then branch out to related genres or lesser-known figures mentioned in their biographies.
2. **Explore Thematic Essays:** Many editions include essays on the social impact of rock, the evolution of subgenres, or pivotal moments like Woodstock—these provide broader context beyond individual artists.
3. **Use It as a Discovery Tool:** Follow cross-references and discography lists to discover new music and hidden gems within the rock canon.
4. **Compare Album Reviews:** Gain perspective on landmark albums by reading Rolling Stone's critical takes, which often encapsulate the critical reception at the time of release.

## Integrating the Encyclopedia into Digital Research

While the original printed editions are prized by collectors, digital versions and online databases inspired by the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia allow for quick keyword searches and multimedia integration. This boosts accessibility and enables users to cross-reference artists, genres, and historical periods with ease.

## The Legacy and Future of Rock Reference Works

As music consumption shifts toward streaming and social media, the role of traditional encyclopedias might seem challenged. However, the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll remains relevant by adapting to new formats and embracing digital platforms.

## Continuing to Capture New Generations of Rock

Rock music continues to evolve, influenced by global sounds and modern technology. Rolling Stone's commitment to updating its encyclopedia ensures that it reflects contemporary artists and emerging trends, bridging the gap between rock's rich past and its dynamic present.

## **Educational Value in Music Studies**

Universities and music schools often incorporate excerpts from the encyclopedia into their curricula. It serves as a foundational text for understanding the interplay between music, culture, and society, making it a cornerstone resource for academic research in popular music studies.

## **Why Every Music Enthusiast Should Own a Copy**

Owning a copy of the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll is like having a backstage pass to the history of rock music. It's a treasure trove of stories that enrich your listening experience and deepen your appreciation for the artistry behind the sound.

Whether you're flipping through its pages on a rainy afternoon or using it as a reference for your next music blog post, this encyclopedia invites you to engage with rock and roll in a meaningful way. It celebrates the legends, uncovers the obscure, and honors the spirit of a genre that continues to inspire millions around the globe.

In the end, the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll isn't just a book—it's a living archive of music's most transformative movement, forever spinning its tales for those eager to listen.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll?**

The Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll is a comprehensive reference book that provides detailed information about artists, albums, and the history of rock music, originally published by Rolling Stone magazine.

### **When was the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll first published?**

The first edition of the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll was published in 1983.

### **Who edited the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll?**

The original Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll was edited by music journalist and critic Dave Marsh.

## How is the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll different from other music encyclopedias?

The Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll is known for its in-depth artist biographies, extensive coverage of rock music history, and contributions from notable music journalists, which provide a more narrative and critical perspective compared to other encyclopedias.

## Is the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll available in digital format?

Yes, recent editions and updates of the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll are available in digital formats, including eBooks and online databases, making it more accessible to modern readers.

## Additional Resources

Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll: A Definitive Resource for Music Enthusiasts

**rolling stone encyclopedia of rock and roll** stands as one of the most comprehensive and authoritative reference works dedicated to the history, artists, and culture of rock music. Since its initial publication, it has become an indispensable tool for scholars, journalists, and fans alike who seek to understand the evolution and impact of rock and roll. This encyclopedia meticulously catalogs musicians, bands, albums, and influential moments, providing insightful entries that blend factual accuracy with critical analysis.

## Exploring the Scope and Significance of the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll

The Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll was originally conceived as a response to the growing need for a well-documented, reliable source chronicling the sprawling world of rock music. Unlike general music encyclopedias, this volume zeroes in on the genre's multifaceted dimensions, encompassing subgenres such as punk, metal, blues rock, and alternative. Its publication marked a milestone in music literature by consolidating decades of rock history into a single, accessible compendium.

What sets this encyclopedia apart is its editorial pedigree. Curated and contributed to by music critics, historians, and industry insiders affiliated with Rolling Stone magazine, the content combines journalistic rigor with cultural context. This ensures that entries go beyond mere biographical data, offering critical perspectives on artists' influences, stylistic developments, and legacies.

## Editorial Approach and Content Structure

The editorial framework of the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll emphasizes thoroughness and depth. Each entry typically includes:

- Biographical information of artists and bands
- Discographies highlighting seminal albums and notable tracks
- Critical assessments of musical style and innovation
- Contextualization within broader musical trends and movements
- Photographs and archival material where available

The encyclopedia's alphabetical arrangement facilitates quick reference, while cross-references direct readers to related topics and artists, enhancing navigability. Moreover, the inclusion of lesser-known artists alongside iconic figures underscores the publication's commitment to comprehensive coverage.

## Comparative Analysis: Rolling Stone Encyclopedia versus Other Music References

When juxtaposed with other renowned music encyclopedias such as the "All Music Guide to Rock" or the "Encyclopedia of Popular Music," the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll distinguishes itself through its editorial voice and cultural insight. While other references may prioritize exhaustive discographies or technical details, Rolling Stone's offering leans toward narrative storytelling enriched by critical commentary.

In terms of volume and scope, the Rolling Stone encyclopedia may not be as voluminous as some multi-volume series, but its focused approach allows for depth without overwhelming casual readers. It strikes a balance between accessibility for newcomers and detailed content for aficionados.

## Strengths and Limitations

Among the strengths of the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll are:

- **Credibility:** Backed by the authority of Rolling Stone magazine and contributions from respected music journalists.
- **Contextual Depth:** Entries provide cultural and historical context beyond simple facts.
- **Engaging Writing Style:** The prose is informative yet engaging, appealing to a broad audience.

However, some limitations exist:

- **Coverage Bias:** Given its U.S.-centric origins, the encyclopedia may emphasize American and British artists more heavily, occasionally underrepresenting international rock scenes.
- **Edition Updates:** As rock music continually evolves, periodic updates are necessary to maintain relevance; older editions may lack recent developments.
- **Format Constraints:** The print format, while traditional, can limit quick searching compared to digital databases.

## The Role of the Encyclopedia in Academic and Popular Music Studies

In academic circles, the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll serves as a foundational reference, often cited in research on popular music history and cultural studies. Its comprehensive entries aid in framing scholarly discussions around the genre's social impact, political undertones, and artistic evolution.

For popular music studies, the encyclopedia acts as a bridge between casual fandom and critical analysis. By providing accessible yet detailed information, it nurtures a deeper appreciation of rock music's complexities. Music educators frequently recommend it as a resource for students exploring the genre's roots and trajectories.

## Integration with Digital and Multimedia Resources

With the advent of digital media, the relevance of traditional encyclopedias faces challenges. Nevertheless, the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll has adapted through companion digital platforms and online archives. These digital iterations offer enhanced search capabilities, multimedia content such as audio

samples and videos, and regular updates that keep pace with the evolving rock landscape.

Such integration not only broadens the encyclopedia's reach but also enriches the user experience, making it a dynamic resource for the modern audience.

## Highlights of Notable Entries and Unique Features

One of the most compelling aspects of the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll is its inclusion of nuanced profiles that shed light on transformative artists and landmark albums. Entries on legendary figures like Bob Dylan, The Beatles, and Jimi Hendrix provide exhaustive insights into their contributions and influence on rock's development.

Additionally, the encyclopedia pays attention to subcultural movements and pivotal events—ranging from the British Invasion to the emergence of grunge—offering readers a panoramic view of the genre's evolution.

Unique features often found in this volume include:

- Timelines outlining key moments in rock history
- Glossaries defining genre-specific terminology
- Comparative essays analyzing stylistic trends
- Spotlights on behind-the-scenes figures such as producers and songwriters

These elements collectively provide a rich, layered understanding of rock and roll beyond surface-level facts.

## Audience and Accessibility

The Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll caters to a diverse audience, including:

1. **Music Scholars and Historians:** Seeking authoritative source material.
2. **Journalists and Critics:** Looking for reliable background and critical perspectives.



3. **Fans and Enthusiasts:** Interested in exploring the genre's vast tapestry.
4. **Students and Educators:** Utilizing it as a teaching and learning aid.

The language remains professional yet approachable, making it accessible without sacrificing depth or rigor.

## Enduring Legacy and Influence in Rock Music Literature

Over the decades, the Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll has helped shape public understanding of rock music, influencing how the genre is documented and discussed. Its blend of journalistic expertise and scholarly insight set a benchmark for subsequent music reference works.

As rock continues to evolve, the encyclopedia remains a touchstone for those seeking to trace its roots and appreciate its ongoing cultural resonance. Whether consulted for research, writing, or personal curiosity, it stands as a testament to the enduring fascination with one of the most impactful musical genres of the 20th and 21st centuries.

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Selected by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as its official source of information, this authoritative volume, first published in 1983, once again tops the charts with its full coverage of every aspect of the rock scene. Accompanying the more than 2,200 performer profiles are essays that reveal the artists' musical influences, first breaks, hits and misses, and more.

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**rolling stone encyclopedia of rock and roll: The New Rolling Stone Album Guide** Nathan Brackett, Christian David Hoard, 2004 Publisher Description

**rolling stone encyclopedia of rock and roll: So You Want to Sing Rock** Matt Edwards, 2024-05-13 Matt Edwards, one of the leading voice teachers for commercial music styles, shares his approach to coordinating the voice so that singers can focus on performing. Fully updated and expanded, this new edition gives specific advice for beginner, intermediate, and advanced performers as well as those crossing over from classical or musical theatre. So You Want to Sing Rock provides a comprehensive guide and covers a wide variety of topics: rock history, voice science, vocal health, audio technology, technical approaches to singing rock, and stylistic parameters for various rock subgenres. The book is not only the ideal guide for singing professionals but the perfect reference work for voice teachers and their students, lead and back-up singers, record producers, and studio engineers. The So You Want to Sing series is produced in partnership with the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Please visit [www.nats.org](http://www.nats.org) to access style-specific exercises, audio and video files, and additional resources.

**rolling stone encyclopedia of rock and roll: Early '70s Radio** Kim Simpson, 2011-07-21 Early '70s Radio focuses on the emergence of commercial music radio formats, which refer to distinct musical genres aimed toward specific audiences. This formatting revolution took place in a period rife with heated politics, identity anxiety, large-scale disappointments and seemingly insoluble social problems. As industry professionals worked overtime to understand audiences and to generate formats, they also laid the groundwork for market segmentation. Audiences, meanwhile, approached these formats as safe havens wherein they could re-imagine and redefine key issues of identity. A fresh and accessible exercise in audience interpretation, Early '70s Radio is organized according to the era's five prominent formats and analyzes each of these in relation to their targeted demographics, including Top 40, soft rock, album-oriented rock, soul and country. The book closes by making a case for the significance of early '70s formatting in light of commercial radio today.

**rolling stone encyclopedia of rock and roll: Hot Stuff** Alice Echols, 2011-03-22 Only nominally about the watered-down funk music that was disco, Echols' history instead focuses on disco's social effects, particularly the rise of gay consciousness and the mainstreaming of the gay rights movement.

**rolling stone encyclopedia of rock and roll: Running with the Devil** Robert Walser, 2015-06-05 "A solid, scholarly analysis of the power, meaning, musical structure, and sociopolitical contexts of the most popular examples of heavy metal." —Library Journal Dismissed by critics and academics, condemned by parents and politicians, and fervently embraced by legions of fans, heavy metal music continues to attract and embody cultural conflicts that are central to society. In *Running with the Devil*, Robert Walser explores how and why heavy metal works, both musically and socially, and at the same time uses metal to investigate contemporary formations of identity, community, gender, and power. This edition includes a new foreword by Harris M. Berger contextualizing the work and a new afterword by the author. Ebook Edition Note: all photographs (sixteen) have been redacted. "Walser belongs to a small but influential group of academics trying to reconcile 'high theory' with a streetwise sense of culture . . . an excellent book." —Rolling Stone "Takes musicology where it has never gone before; I once saw the chapter on metal guitarists and the classical tradition performed live in a lecture hall, but even on paper it smokes." —SF Weekly "Walser is truly gifted at doing what few critics before him have done: analyzing the music . . . In

virtuoso readings of metal music that forge persuasive links between metal and particular classical music traditions, Walser reveals the ways that musical structures themselves are social texts.” —The Nation “Making surprising connections to classical forms and debunking stereotypes of metal’s musical crudity, Walser delves enthusiastically into guitar conventions and rituals.” —The Washington Post

**rolling stone encyclopedia of rock and roll: Arts & Entertainment Fads** Frank W. Hoffmann, William G. Bailey, 1990 The first book in a multi-volume set on American fads. Gives data on the entertainers, art, movies, literature, television programs, and music that have captured national attention and followers in the past 200 years. Each of the 120 entries examines the nature of the fad and its importance to the American scene, influencing our vocabularies, fashions, leisure time pursuits, expectations about life, marketing strategies, and spending habits. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

**rolling stone encyclopedia of rock and roll: Pearl** Ellis Amburn, 2023-06-06 The definitive biography of the 1960s music legend covers her trailblazing life from troubled childhood to iconic stardom to her tragically early death. A wild child of the Texas-Louisiana swamps, Janis Joplin wailed the blues like no one before had ever dared. She was the first rock star of the 1960s counterculture, a fashion trendsetter in San Francisco’s back-to-the-roots movement that overtook the world, and a prisoner of an ultimately doomed search for happiness in sex, drugs, money, and fame. But to those who knew and loved her intimately, she was Pearl. Acclaimed music biographer Ellis Amburn reveals the true life story of this immortal legend. From her backwater Texas childhood where classmates punished her for her individuality, Amburn charts her unlikely rise to stardom and affairs with fellow music legends including Jim Morrison, Kris Kristofferson, and Jimi Hendrix. Amburn also chronicles her losing battles with addiction, insecurity, and other forces that drove her through a short, impulsive life, to death by overdose at the age of twenty-seven.

**rolling stone encyclopedia of rock and roll: Born at the Right Time** Doug Owsram, 1997-12-15 It is rare in history for people to link their identity with their generation, and even rarer when children and adolescents actually shape society and influence politics. Both phenomena aptly describe the generation born in the decade following the Second World War. These were the baby boomers, viewed by some as the spoiled, selfish generation that had it all, and by others as a shock wave that made love and peace into tangible ideals. In this book, Doug Owsram brings us the untold story of this famous generation as it played out its first twenty-five years in Canadian society. Beginning with Dr Spock's dictate that this particular crop of babies must be treated gently, Owsram explores the myth and history surrounding this group, from its beginning at war's end to the close of the 1960s. The baby boomers wielded extraordinary power right from birth, Owsram points out, and laid their claim on history while still in diapers. He sees the generation's power and sense of self stemming from three factors: its size, its affluent circumstance, and its connection with the 1960s – the fabulous decade of free love, flower power, women's liberation, drugs, protest marches, and rock 'n' roll. From Davy Crockett hats and Barbie dolls to the civil-rights movement and the sexual revolution, the concerns of this single generation became predominant themes for all of society. Thus, Owsram's history of the baby-boomers is in many ways a history of the era. Doug Owsram has written extensively on cultural icons, Utopian hopes, and the gap between realities and images – all powerful themes in the story of this idealistic generation. A well-researched, lucid, and humorous book, *Born at the Right Time* is the first Canadian history of the baby-boomers and the society they helped to shape.

**rolling stone encyclopedia of rock and roll: To the Limit** Marc Eliot, 2024-08-06 The definitive, unauthorized biography of The Eagles by the New York Times bestselling biographer *To the Limit* is the unauthorized account of the group from its earliest years through the breakup, solo careers, and reunions. Blending the country and folk music of the late sixties with the melodic seductiveness of Detroit-style roots rock, the Eagles brought a new sound to a stagnant music scene. Under the brilliant management of David Geffen, the Eagles projected a public image of unshakable camaraderie -- embodied by the cerebral, brooding Don Henley and the intuitive, self-destructive

Glenn Frey -- bolstered by the gorgeous harmonies of their songs. Behind the scenes, however, there was another story. At turns revealing, inspiring, funny, and shocking, *To the Limit* is the chronicle of a time, a place, and a group that succeeded in changing forever the world of popular music.

**rolling stone encyclopedia of rock and roll: Willin'** Ben Fong-Torres, 2013-11-12 The saga of the legendary Los Angeles band Little Feat is one of rock 'n' roll's great stories. Formed in 1969 by ex-members of Frank Zappa's Mothers of Invention, Little Feat created groove-heavy music that was an irresistible mix of rock, blues, R&B, country, jazz, soul, and funk. Fronted by the charismatic but doomed vocalist and brilliant slide guitarist Lowell George, the band recorded such classic studio albums as *Sailin' Shoes* and *Dixie Chicken*, as well as *Waiting for Columbus*, which many consider to be one of the best live albums of all time. Acclaimed journalist Ben Fong-Torres -- working with Little Feat's surviving members, their friends, and associates -- wrote *Willin'* based on hours of brand new interviews with the key players. The result? The first definitive biography of this beloved rock 'n' roll institution.

**rolling stone encyclopedia of rock and roll: Swamp Pop** Shane K. Bernard, 2009-09-23 Music of Louisiana was at the heart of rock-and-roll in the 1950s. Most fans know that Jerry Lee Lewis, one of the icons, sprang out of Ferriday, Louisiana, in the middle of delta country and that along with Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley he was one of the very first of these "white boys playing black music." The genre was profoundly influenced by New Orleans, a launch pad for major careers, such as Little Richard's and Fats Domino's. The untold "rest of the story" is the story of swamp pop, a form of Louisiana music more recognized by its practitioners and their hits than by a definition. What is it? What true rock enthusiasts don't know some of its most important artists? Dale and Grace ("I'm leaving It Up to You"), Phil Phillips ("Sea of Love"), Joe Barry ("I'm a Fool to Care"), Cooke and the Cupcakes ("Mathilda"), Jimmy Clanton ("Just a Dream"), Johnny Preston ("Runnin' Bear"), Rod Bernard ("This Should Go on Forever"), and Bobby Charles ("Later, Alligator")? There were many others just as important within the region. Drawing on more than fifty interviews with swamp pop musicians in South Louisiana and East Texas, *Swamp Pop: Cajun and Creole Rhythm and Blues* finds the roots of this often-overlooked, sometimes-derided sister genre of the wildly popular Cajun and zydeco music. In this first book to be devoted entirely to swamp pop, Shane K. Bernard uncovers the history of this hybrid form invented in the 1950s by teenage Cajuns and black Creoles. They put aside the fiddle and accordion of their parents' traditional French music to learn the electric guitar and bass, saxophone, upright piano, and modern drumming trap sets of big-city rhythm-and-blues. Their new sound interwove country-and-western and rhythm-and-blues with the exciting elements of their rural Cajun and Creole heritage. In the 1950s and 1960s American juke boxes and music charts were studded with swamp pop favorites.

**rolling stone encyclopedia of rock and roll: Workin' Man Blues** Gerald Haslam, Alexandra Haslam Russell, Richard Chon, 2012-10 *Workin' Man Blues* is possibly the most brilliantly astute and thorough examination ever written about country music in California and the impact it has had in our lives and on our culture. I'm extremely flattered to be even mentioned in such august company.—Dwight Yoakam, Singer, Songwriter With all the pathos of a Rose Maddox ballad and more edges than a Merle Haggard song, Haslam has spun together the stories of the artists who have made California part of country music and country music part of California.—James Gregory, author of *American Exodus: The Dust Bowl Migration and Okie Culture in California* This book clears new ground in both the history of music and American ethnicity. As gorgeously detailed as any shirt worn by a Rhinestone Cowboy, there's no other book like it.—Kevin Starr, State Librarian of California

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