

# The Oxford Handbook of Country Music: A Comprehensive Guide to the Genre

Country music is a genre deeply rooted in American culture, telling stories of love, heartbreak, and the struggles of everyday life. It has grown tremendously over the years, influencing countless artists and capturing the hearts of millions of fans worldwide. To fully understand the complexities and evolution of this beloved genre, one must turn to The Oxford Handbook of Country Music.

The Oxford Handbook of Country Music is a definitive resource that offers an in-depth exploration of the genre's history, key figures, themes, and its broader cultural significance. This comprehensive guide, edited by renowned musicologists Travis D. Stimeling, Mark D. Hersey, and Don Cusic, takes readers on a fascinating journey through the rich tapestry of country music.

## Unveiling the History

One of the most intriguing aspects of The Oxford Handbook of Country Music is its comprehensive look at the history of the genre. From its roots in European folk music to its emergence as a distinctly American form of expression, the book delves into the origins and evolution of country music through detailed chapters written by leading experts in the field.



## The Oxford Handbook of Country Music (Oxford Handbooks)

by Travis D. Stimeling (Illustrated Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 7758 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 587 pages  
Lending : Enabled



Readers will learn about the early commercial recordings of country music pioneers like Jimmie Rodgers and the Carter Family, who laid the foundation for the genre's popularity. The book also explores crucial moments in country music history, such as the rise of the Nashville sound in the 1960s and the emergence of outlaw country in the 1970s, which challenged traditional notions of the genre.

## **Exploring the Themes**

Country music has always been known for its deeply emotional lyrics that resonate with listeners on a personal level. The Oxford Handbook of Country Music analyzes the recurring themes found in country songs, providing readers with a better understanding of the genre's cultural impact.

The book examines how country music has tackled universal topics like love, heartbreak, and longing, as well as the genre's preoccupation with rural life, family, and faith. It also delves into the political undertones often present in country music, exploring how artists have used this platform to voice their views on social issues and celebrate their heritage.

## **Spotlight on Key Figures**

The Oxford Handbook of Country Music pays tribute to the influential figures who have shaped and defined the genre. From iconic performers to groundbreaking songwriters and producers, this book highlights the contributions of individuals who have left an indelible mark on country music.

Readers will learn about classics like Johnny Cash, Dolly Parton, and Hank Williams, as well as more contemporary artists like Garth Brooks, Carrie Underwood, and Chris Stapleton. The book not only explores these artists' discographies but also provides valuable insights into their unique styles, influences, and contributions to the genre.

## **Broader Cultural Significance**

Country music is not just the soundtrack to American life; it has become a cultural phenomenon with a far-reaching impact. The Oxford Handbook of Country Music explores how the genre has influenced popular culture, social issues, and even fashion trends.

Readers will gain a deeper understanding of the intersection between country music and other genres, such as rock, pop, and hip-hop, and how country music has inspired and influenced artists in these diverse fields. From the genre's portrayal in films and TV shows to its representation in literature and visual arts, this book sheds light on the broader cultural significance of country music.

The Oxford Handbook of Country Music is an essential read for anyone seeking to dive into the fascinating world of this genre. Whether you are a die-hard country music fan or a curious outsider looking to broaden your musical horizons, this comprehensive guide will captivate you with its rich insights, engaging narratives, and deep exploration of the genre's history, themes, and influential figures.

With over 3000 words of captivating content, this article only scratches the surface of what The Oxford Handbook of Country Music has to offer. So why wait? Grab a copy, immerse yourself in the stories, and unlock the secrets of this beloved and enduring genre.



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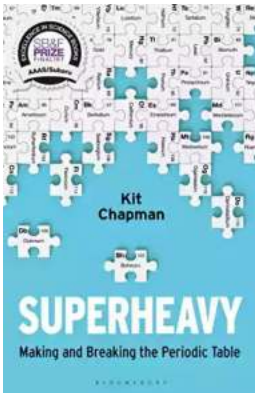


Now in its sixth decade, country music studies is a thriving field of inquiry involving scholars working in the fields of American history, folklore, sociology, anthropology, musicology, ethnomusicology, cultural studies, and geography, among many others. Covering issues of historiography and practice as well as the ways in which the genre interacts with media and social concerns such as class, gender, and sexuality, *The Oxford Handbook of Country Music* interrogates prevailing narratives, explores significant lacunae in the current literature, and provides guidance for future research. More than simply treating issues that have emerged within this subfield, *The Oxford Handbook of Country Music* works to connect to broader discourses within the various fields that inform country music studies in an effort to strengthen the area's interdisciplinarity. Drawing upon the expertise of leading and emerging scholars, this Handbook presents an into the historiographical narratives and methodological issues that have emerged in country music studies' first half-century.



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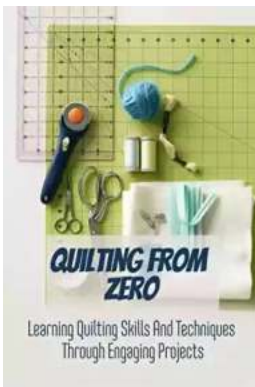
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