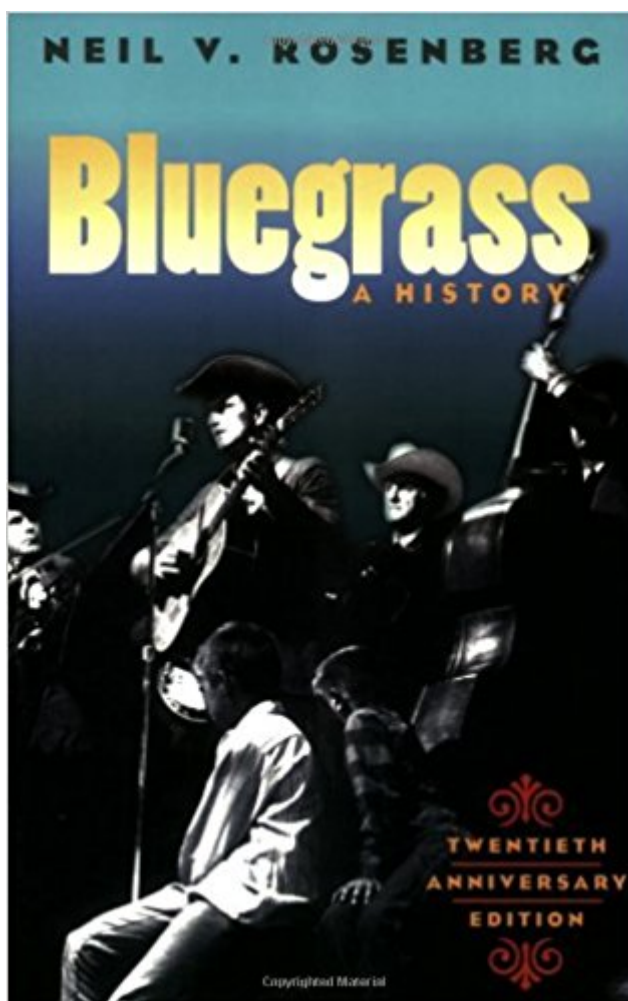


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# Bluegrass: A HISTORY 20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION (Music In American Life)



## Synopsis

Beginning with the musical cultures of the American South in the 1920s and 1930s, this title traces the genre through its pivotal developments during the era of Bill Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys in the forties. It also describes early bluegrass' role in postwar country music, and its trials following the appearance of rock and roll.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rosenberg's book is the publisher's second excellent bluegrass history in two years. Robert Cantwell's *Bluegrass Breakdown* (LJ 5/15/84) was a scholarly study of the music and its cultural roots, while this one expands the reader's appreciation by focusing on the performers. There is considerable overlap, of course, as both authors describe Bill Monroe's founding influence and the contributions of pioneers such as the Stanley Brothers and Flatt and Scruggs. Rosenberg offers many more biographical details, however, and discusses the musical impact of many more persons than does Cantwell. Fans as well as scholars will find much to like in this well-researched, well-indexed work. William Hepfer, SUNY at Buffalo Libs. Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A history of bluegrass. Winner of the Country Music People Critics' Choice Award for Favorite Country Book of the Year and of the International Bluegrass Music Association Certificate of Merit.

Neil Rosenberg has written a fine starter-kit book for those interested in bluegrass. This one gets you into the music and allows you to understand the principals but you will have to read another book or two which are a tad more contemporary to get the entire and indeed current picture of what bluegrass music really is today. Three and a half stars if you ask me.

If you want to learn about the history of bluegrass all the way from Bill Monroe to Cherryholmes and Cadillac Sky, then Rosenberg is NOT the book for you. Although this "revised" edition was published in 2005, it is essentially the same book originally published in 1985, and even that narrative pretty well stopped in the mid-1970s. That said, this is a terrific history of the formative decades of bluegrass. Rosenberg's chronology is almost dizzying in its detail - so many musicians, record executives, festival promoters, radio station owners, magazine publishers, etc. to track in your mind as you read along. I am a former broadcaster and it was especially fun to remember what the "ecosystem" of the radio and music industries was like in the 50s and 60s. Rosenberg is at his best when analyzing the individual and cultural forces that led to the big breakthroughs for this musical form, and he exhibits a good understanding of the tensions between urban and rural fans and between young innovators and older traditionalists. The only place I think he went off track was in some overly academic analyses of bluegrass in film and television. Thanks, but I don't need to have *The Beverly Hillbillies* deconstructed. Overall, though, I learned a lot and gained a deeper appreciation for a musical form that I have enjoyed for many years. Well worth reading.

The definitive book on the history of bluegrass, "Bluegrass" does a great job balancing an explanation of the musical components, the cultural background of the music and the history in individual musicians who created it. Essential reading for anybody interested in bluegrass or Americana.

A very dry history of bluegrass. Did not enjoy reading this book.

I very much appreciate this extensive resource on bluegrass. My only disappointment is that though it was "revised" in 2005, nothing has been added since the original publication in 1985, presumably because it would require a second volume.

An encyclopedia of bluegrass history. Full of facts and stories about the great performers. A great

buy.

love

If you love Bluegrass then you will want this book. Rosenberg does a great job of documenting bluegrass history. A must have! I would buy again and recommend to others.

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Bluegrass: A HISTORY 20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION (Music in American Life) Bluegrass Fiddle: a guide to bluegrass and country-wtyle fiddling. Right hand techniques, doublestops, slurs, and slides. In standard music notation with over twenty illustrative tunes. Bluegrass Mandolin - An Instruction Book And Collection Of Bluegrass Mandolin Music Covering In Detail All Basic... Guest Book 50th Wedding Anniversary: Beautiful Ivory Guest Book for 50th Wedding Anniversary, Golden Anniversary Gift for Couples Traveling the High Way Home: Ralph Stanley and the World of Traditional Bluegrass Music (Music in American Life) The Indians' New World: Catawbas and Their Neighbors from European Contact through the Era of Removal, 20th Anniversary Ed (Institute of Early American History & Culture) Inside Bluegrass: 20 Years of Bluegrass Photography The Complete Idiot's Guide to Bluegrass Mandolin Favorites: You CAN Play Your Favorite Bluegrass Songs!, Book & 2 Enhanced CDs Bluegrass Clarinet Fun Book: Famous Bluegrass Classics for the Advancing Clarinet Player Backroad Bicycling in Kentucky's Bluegrass: 25 Rides in the Bluegrass Region, Lower Kentucky Valley, Central Heartlands, and More Insiders' Guide to Lexington & Kentucky's Bluegrass (Insiders' Guide to Lexington & the Kentucky Bluegrass) Don't Give Your Heart to a Rambler: My Life with Jimmy Martin, the King of Bluegrass (Music in American Life) World Music Drumming: Teacher/Dvd-Rom 20Th Anniversary Edition MUSIC CITY NEWS magazine March 1980 George Jones on cover (The Sound of a City Heard Around The World, Volume XVII No. 9, Country Music, Bluegrass Music,) Out to Work: A History of Wage-Earning Women in the United States, 20th Anniversary Edition Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History, 20th Anniversary Edition Silencing the Past (20th anniversary edition): Power and the Production of History Life in the Fast Lane: 20th Anniversary Special Edition Dancing Skeletons: Life and Death in West Africa, 20th Anniversary Edition World History, Ancient History, Asian History, United States History, European History, Russian History, Indian History, African History. (world history)

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