



The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordings and the American Experience (Music in American Life)

By Stephen Wade

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordings and the American Experience (Music in American Life) By Stephen Wade

The Beautiful Music All Around Us presents the extraordinarily rich backstories of thirteen performances captured on Library of Congress field recordings between 1934 and 1942 in locations reaching from Southern Appalachia to the Mississippi Delta and the Great Plains. Including the children's play song "Shortenin' Bread," the fiddle tune "Bonaparte's Retreat," the blues "Another Man Done Gone," and the spiritual "Ain't No Grave Can Hold My Body Down," these performances were recorded in kitchens and churches, on porches and in prisons, in hotel rooms and school auditoriums. Documented during the golden age of the Library of Congress recordings, they capture not only the words and tunes of traditional songs but also the sounds of life in which the performances were embedded: children laugh, neighbors comment, trucks pass by.

Musician and researcher Stephen Wade sought out the performers on these recordings, their families, fellow musicians, and others who remembered them. He reconstructs the sights and sounds of the recording sessions themselves and how the music worked in all their lives. Some of these performers developed musical reputations beyond these field recordings, but for many, these tracks represent their only appearances on record: prisoners at the Arkansas State Penitentiary jumping on "the Library's recording machine" in a rendering of "Rock Island Line"; Ora Dell Graham being called away from the schoolyard to sing the jump-rope rhyme "Pullin' the Skiff"; Luther Strong shaking off a hungover night in jail and borrowing a fiddle to rip into "Glory in the Meetinghouse."

Alongside loving and expert profiles of these performers and their locales and communities, Wade also untangles the histories of these iconic songs and tunes, tracing them through slave songs and spirituals, British and homegrown ballads, fiddle contests, gospel quartets, and labor laments. By exploring how these singers and instrumentalists exerted their own creativity on inherited forms,

"amplifying tradition's gifts," Wade shows how a single artist can make a difference within a democracy.

Reflecting decades of research and detective work, the profiles and abundant photos in *The Beautiful Music All Around Us* bring to life largely unheralded individuals--domestics, farm laborers, state prisoners, schoolchildren, cowboys, housewives and mothers, loggers and miners--whose music has become part of the wider American musical soundscape. The hardcover edition also includes an accompanying CD that presents these thirteen performances, songs and sounds of America in the 1930s and '40s.

 [Download The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recording ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordi ...pdf](#)

The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordings and the American Experience (Music in American Life)

By Stephen Wade

The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordings and the American Experience (Music in American Life) By Stephen Wade

The Beautiful Music All Around Us presents the extraordinarily rich backstories of thirteen performances captured on Library of Congress field recordings between 1934 and 1942 in locations reaching from Southern Appalachia to the Mississippi Delta and the Great Plains. Including the children's play song "Shortenin' Bread," the fiddle tune "Bonaparte's Retreat," the blues "Another Man Done Gone," and the spiritual "Ain't No Grave Can Hold My Body Down," these performances were recorded in kitchens and churches, on porches and in prisons, in hotel rooms and school auditoriums. Documented during the golden age of the Library of Congress recordings, they capture not only the words and tunes of traditional songs but also the sounds of life in which the performances were embedded: children laugh, neighbors comment, trucks pass by.

Musician and researcher Stephen Wade sought out the performers on these recordings, their families, fellow musicians, and others who remembered them. He reconstructs the sights and sounds of the recording sessions themselves and how the music worked in all their lives. Some of these performers developed musical reputations beyond these field recordings, but for many, these tracks represent their only appearances on record: prisoners at the Arkansas State Penitentiary jumping on "the Library's recording machine" in a rendering of "Rock Island Line"; Ora Dell Graham being called away from the schoolyard to sing the jump-rope rhyme "Pullin' the Skiff"; Luther Strong shaking off a hungover night in jail and borrowing a fiddle to rip into "Glory in the Meetinghouse."

Alongside loving and expert profiles of these performers and their locales and communities, Wade also untangles the histories of these iconic songs and tunes, tracing them through slave songs and spirituals, British and homegrown ballads, fiddle contests, gospel quartets, and labor laments. By exploring how these singers and instrumentalists exerted their own creativity on inherited forms, "amplifying tradition's gifts," Wade shows how a single artist can make a difference within a democracy.

Reflecting decades of research and detective work, the profiles and abundant photos in *The Beautiful Music All Around Us* bring to life largely unheralded individuals--domestics, farm laborers, state prisoners, schoolchildren, cowboys, housewives and mothers, loggers and miners--whose music has become part of the wider American musical soundscape. The hardcover edition also includes an accompanying CD that presents these thirteen performances, songs and sounds of America in the 1930s and '40s.

The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordings and the American Experience (Music in

American Life) By Stephen Wade Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #391731 in Books
- Brand: Brand: University of Illinois Press
- Published on: 2012-08-10
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.00" h x 1.30" w x 7.00" l, 3.10 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 504 pages

 [Download The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recording ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordi ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordings and the American Experience (Music in American Life) By Stephen Wade

Editorial Review

Review

"Extraordinary. . . . A masterpiece of humane scholarship."--*The Wall Street Journal*

"These stories and the recordings — capturing the voices of everyday people, not pop stars — simply crackle."--*Los Angeles Times*

"Offers an understanding not only of a musical thread vital to American culture, but of America itself."--*Publishers Weekly*

"Astonishing. . . . These stories are compelling, moving and revelatory."--*Chicago Tribune*

"As compelling as a good detective story, this investigation of field recordings of a bygone era will be embraced by music fans. This book reminds readers that they don't need pop icons to experience passionate music."--*Library Journal*

"A unique, personal, thoroughly documented book, a labor of love. . . . valuable for those with an interest in folklore, popular music, southern cultures, and race relations. . . . Highly recommended."--*Choice*

About the Author

Musician, recording artist, and writer **Stephen Wade** is best known for his long-running stage performances of *Banjo Dancing* and *On the Way Home*. He also produced and annotated the Rounder CD collection that gave rise to this book, *A Treasury of Library of Congress Field Recordings*. Since 1996 his occasional commentaries on folksongs and traditional tunes have appeared on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Frances Lawler:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or maybe read a book eligible The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordings and the American Experience (Music in American Life)? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have some other opinion?

Helen Green:

As people who live in often the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or information even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era and that is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe may update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what type you should start with. This The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordings and the American Experience (Music in American Life) is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Melissa Gusman:

Reading a book tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Textbooks can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only the story that share in the publications. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors on earth always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some study before they write for their book. One of them is this The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordings and the American Experience (Music in American Life).

Eunice Nunn:

In this era which is the greater man or who has ability in doing something more are more special than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple way to have that. What you must do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to have a look at some books. One of several books in the top collection in your reading list will be The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordings and the American Experience (Music in American Life). This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Hillsides can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking upwards and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

**Download and Read Online The Beautiful Music All Around Us:
Field Recordings and the American Experience (Music in American
Life) By Stephen Wade #AFD7J2HWL6C**

Read The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordings and the American Experience (Music in American Life) By Stephen Wade for online ebook

The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordings and the American Experience (Music in American Life) By Stephen Wade Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordings and the American Experience (Music in American Life) By Stephen Wade books to read online.

Online The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordings and the American Experience (Music in American Life) By Stephen Wade ebook PDF download

The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordings and the American Experience (Music in American Life) By Stephen Wade Doc

The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordings and the American Experience (Music in American Life) By Stephen Wade Mobipocket

The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordings and the American Experience (Music in American Life) By Stephen Wade EPub

AFD7J2HWL6C: The Beautiful Music All Around Us: Field Recordings and the American Experience (Music in American Life) By Stephen Wade