

Alternative Rock : Third Ear - The Essential Listening Companion

By Dave Thompson



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(Book). This book looks inside the artists and music that transformed the American and British soundscape of the 1980s and '90s. Scene-setting essays some with interviews of key figures explore alternative rock's primary influences, from Captain Beefheart to Brian Eno, and its many subgenres, from punk to grunge and Brit pop to trip hop. Reviews and profiles cover over 2,000 recordings and more than 500 musicians, such as The Beastie Boys, The Cure, R.E.M., Marilyn Manson, XTC and hundreds more. This comprehensive guide also examines the cultural scenes, technologies and people behind the alternative sound. From the author of Depeche Mode and Never Fade Away: The Kurt Cobain Story .



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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This massive and inclusive reference work by best-selling rock music writer Thompson (Never Fade Away: The Kurt Cobain Story) fills a gap by providing a reasonably priced, useful, and informative guide to a highly popular musical subgenre alternative rock. In the historically fascinating introduction, Thompson provides a time line that traces the jelling of three factors in 1975 that led to a rock sound whose main rule is that there are no rules: the release of Lou Reed's Metal Machine Music, Patti Smith's Horses, and the blowup of the Sex Pistols. Noting that his goal "is not to chronicle every performer ever to be categorized as an 'alternative rock' act, but to isolate a sampling of those who have made the greatest contributions" to the form, he then launches into a fine selection of essays that define the music's complicated saga, both in the United Kingdom and America. This is followed by encyclopedic A-Z coverage of the artists whom Thompson considers the "alt" music scene's movers and shakers. Some may quibble about selection and other topics, but this writer knows his stuff and can organize and write well about it. The stories of such lesser-known groups as Black '47 and Disorder are handled with the same aplomb and definess as the wildly popular Blondie (then) and Marilyn Manson (now). Libraries that pride themselves on well-rounded music and pop culture collections should purchase this third entry in the fine "Third Ear" series. David M. Turkalo, Suffolk Univ. Law Sch., Law Lib., Boston

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From **Booklist**

If you're reading this, our guess is that you don't know much about British punk band Throbbing Gristle or American rockers Camper Van Beethoven and Lydia Lunch. Here is your chance to find out. Entries are arranged alphabetically, with plenty of details about personalities and individual recordings. REVWR Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Review

"...the voice of Dave Thompson alone. Nicely opinionated, he pulls no punches delineating discographical high and low points." -- *Tower Records' Epulse, December 10, 2000*

"A perfect antidote to the familiar parental catcall: 'Turn off the racket and pick up a book!'" -- Kirkus Reviews, on Thompson's Better to Burn Out

"Destined to be one of those great rock 'n' roll biographies...a legitimate and solid work." -- *Vox Magazine, on Thompson's Perry Farrell*

"If you have any kind of rock 'n' roll library, chances are you own at least one book by Thompson." -- The Paper

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Tiara Garcia:

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Debbie Gray:

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