



Country Music: A Biographical Dictionary

By Richard Carlin

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This illustrated A-Z guide covers more than 700 country music artists, groups, and bands. Articles also cover specific genres within country music as well as instruments used. Written in a lively, engaging style, the entries not only outline the careers of country music's greatest artists, they provide an understanding of the artist's importance or failings, and a feeling for his or her style. Select discographies are provided at the end of each entry, while a bibliography and indexes by instrument, musical style, genre, and song title round out the work.

For a full list of entries, a generous selection of sample entries, and more, visit the *Country Music: A Biographical Dictionary* website.

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Editorial Review

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Country music speaks to the downtrodden, the lonely, the rebellious, and the bruised. Where else can you find this type of lyric: "I've got tears in my ears from lyin' on my back in my bed while I cry over you" by Harold Barlow?

That type of song is described as a "Weeper--a song dripping with heavy sentiment, often dealing with romantic loss, death or betrayal" in a revised and expanded version of *The Big Book of Country Music* (Penguin, 1995). There is factual information here but also Carlin's personal opinion on the historic and current musicians of American country music. Following a short history of the genre, each entry includes birth and death dates, followed by biographical information that covers lives before, during, and after any commercial or critical success. The entry closes with a discography of selected currently available recordings on CD. Photographs occasionally accompany the entries, which range in length from a quarter page in one column to a whole two-column page.

A few entries on musical styles are included, for example, bluegrass, gospel, honky-tonk, and rockabilly. In addition, other significant aspects of country music have entries, among them such instruments as the banjo and the guitar and such places as the Grand Ole Opry. The majority of the entries are about the performers, both individuals and groups. Carlin includes current favorites such as Billy Ray Cyrus and Faith Hill (who sings "as if she were trying to launch her tonsils into the upper tier of seats at Yankee Stadium") along with historic names such as the Carolina Tar Heels, who were best known during the 1920s.

Following the more than 900 biographical and subject entries are a select bibliography, appendixes on selected entries by musical genre and selected entries by musical instrument, and finally a comprehensive name index, which also includes song titles and album titles. This spirited look at country music is recommended for large music collections as well as for any library serving fans of the genre. *RBB*
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Review

'High remarks for inclusiveness ... Included here are more than 700 insightful, alphabetical entries on some of the major subgenres of country music as well as informative and entertaining biographical sketches ... Recommended especially for school and public libraries looking for a current, not-too-scholarly, single-volume biographical reference.' - *Library Journal*

About the Author

Richard Carlin is the author of several books on folk, country, and traditional music. He worked for Folkways Records as an independent producer from 1975 to 1980, and is currently Executive Editor for Music at Pearson Prentice Hall. He lives in Glen Ridge, New Jersey.

Users Review

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Paul Henson:

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Jerry Jackman:

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