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Where Did Our Love Go?: The Rise And Fall Of The Motown Sound (Music In American Life)



Synopsis

Where Did Our Love Go? chronicles the rise and fall of Motown Records while emphasizing the role of its dynamic founder, Berry Gordy Jr. First published in 1986, this classic work includes a new preface by Nelson George that identifies Motown's influence on young recorders and music mogels of today, including R. Kelly, D'Angelo, Sean Combs, and Russell Simmons. Gordy's uncanny instinct for finding extraordinary talent--whether performers, songwriters, musicians, or producers--yielded popular artists who include the Supremes, the Jackson Five, Smokey Robinson, the Miracles, the Temptations, Marvin Gaye, the Four Tops, and Stevie Wonder. Not shy about depicting Gordy's sometimes manipulative and complex relationships with his artists, George reveals the inner workings of the music business and insightful material on the musicians who backed these stars. The large cache of resulting Motown melodies is still alive in commercials, movies, TV programs, and personal ipods today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

George, an editor at Billboard and author of The Michael Jackson Story, recounts the story of Motown Records, founded by Berry Gordy in Detroit in 1959 and now located in Hollywood. In the end, the author concludes, "Motown became just another record company." Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

George offers a concise history of Berry Gordy's Motown Records, emphasizing Gordy's

enterprising and social-climbing bents. He deals with Motown's inception in the late 1950s; the creation of its hit-making machinery that propelled such acts as the Supremes, the Temptations, and Marvin Gaye to stardom; and its decline in the 70s. Though much of this material has been presented in other books, George has conducted interviews which provide insights into the label's history. Best are his sections on Berry Gordy's entrepreneurial background and his discussion of the musicians who backed the Motown stars and helped to create the Motown sound. An interesting book, written in a spritely style, this will give general readers an equitable glimpse of the Motown Empire. David Szatmary, Continuing Education, Univ. of Washington, Seattle Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

George's book is about the studio musicians who made The Motown Sound HAPPEN -- bassist James Jamerson, pianist Earl Van Dyke, drummer Uriel Jones, and many others who for years were never credited on any Motown releases. Despite the vocal talents out front, these are the guys who made Motown's music move, and some of their stories are tragic. Nelson George pulls all the details together with sympathy for both the under-rewarded musicians and for the Motown "family" that started falling apart early in the '70s. Some really great writing here. The book should have been LONGER....

Good book. Would have given 5 stars, except for a few short excursions into opinion versus the mostly factual accounts. Well-written, interesting, worthwhile read.

If you want a Cliff's Notes (202 page) version of the Motown Story this is a great read. But if a black music authority devotes 5 pages to Marvin Gaye's duets with Tammi Terrell (and 6 more to Flo's demise) one already knows this expensive paperback is not going to provide the Motown "nitty-gritty" I was hoping for. Which for me - now the nostalgia factor is wearing off - requires separating highly enjoyable generic Motown hit factory "products" from those iconic songs future generations will rank as all-time 60's classics. The one Motown song certain to be in this latter category is Marvin Gaye's "I Heard It Through The Grapevine". A note-perfect recording which never stales - and is never mentioned by Mr. George. In his last chapter he removes Norman Whitfield from the Motown role of honor because - by 1983 - his wah-wah guitar sound had become a cliché! Why inaccurately denigrate this remarkable pioneer, who seamlessly fused human voices and rhythm instruments to create original non-formulaic songs - some up to 14 minutes long? A sophisticated musical form even the great Duke Ellington never fully mastered. That some creative

artists "burn-out" has no bearing on the art they created when in their prime. Isn't it obvious to everyone who's studied the entire Motown oeuvre that Norman was their only composer/producer to emerge as a bone-fide musical genius? I knew nothing of Norman Whitfield's output when his Temptations and Undisputed Truth albums were first released. But what a discovery! Ten albums which remain unique achievements in pop music history. As enjoyable and relevant today as when first taped and mixed. How Norman Whitfield "beat the system" to become a great American composer is yet to be disclosed in a book I hope will be written soon. Should "Universal" release ALL his Motown tracks in a 10 CD box this re-evaluation could take only a few weeks.

GOOD ITEM

If you've ever wondered about what went on behind the scenes and about the history of Motown, this book will answer all of your questions and then some. It was meticulously and thoroughly researched, full of very revealing events and a real pleasure to read. I almost wish it didn't end. Highly recommended!

The book was in excellent condition and arrived in good time. I enjoyed reading the book. and will recommend it to others.

One of the best books describing the history of Motown. Easy, enjoyable read!! LOVE it! Thank you Nelson George!

Great book. I read other books on Motown but this one has information that was new to me.

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