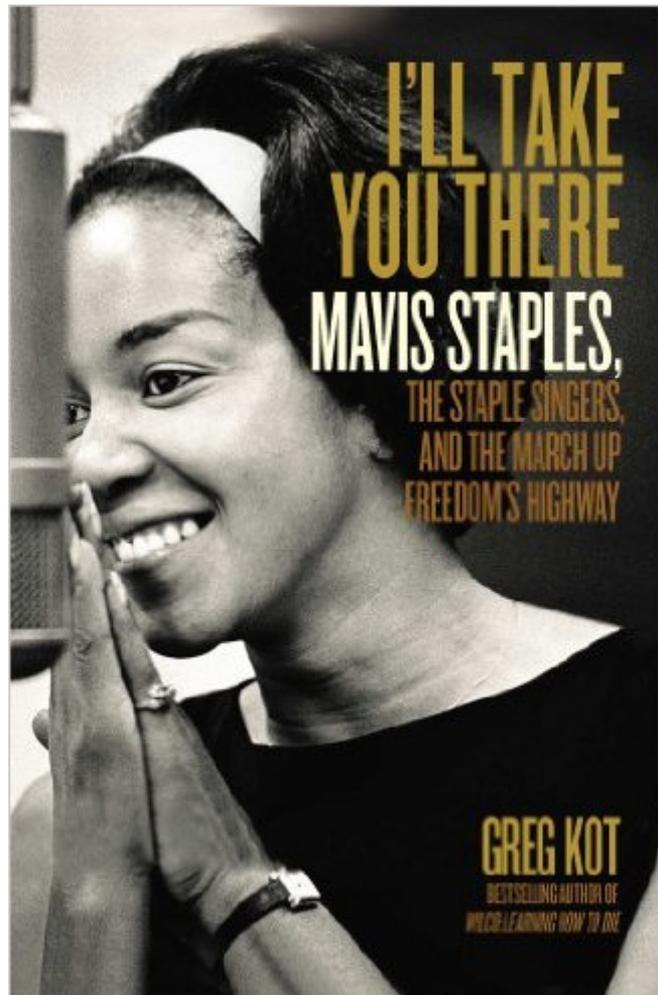


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I'll Take You There: Mavis Staples, The Staple Singers, And The March Up Freedom's Highway



Synopsis

The untold story of living legend Mavis Staples—lead singer of The Staple Singers and a major figure in the music that shaped the Civil Rights era—researched and written by acclaimed music journalist and author Greg Kot. This is the untold story of living legend Mavis Staples—lead singer of the Staple Singers and a major figure in the music that shaped the civil rights era. Now in her seventies, Mavis has been a fixture in the music world for decades. One of the most enduring artists of popular music, she and her family fused gospel, soul, folk, and rock to transcend racism and oppression through song. Honing her prodigious talent on the Southern gospel circuit of the 1950s, Mavis and the Staple Singers went on to sell more than 30 million records, with message-oriented soul music that became a sound track to the civil rights movement—inspiring Martin Luther King Jr. himself. Critically acclaimed biographer and music critic Greg Kot cuts to the heart of Mavis Staples' music, revealing the intimate stories of her sixty-year career. From her love affair with Bob Dylan, to her creative collaborations with Prince, to her recent revival alongside Wilco's Jeff Tweedy, this definitive account shows Mavis as you've never seen her before. > was written with the complete cooperation of Mavis and her family. Readers will also hear from Prince, Bonnie Raitt, David Byrne, Marty Stuart, Ry Cooder, Steve Cropper, and many other individuals whose lives have been influenced by Mavis' talent. Filled with never-before-told stories, this fascinating biography illuminates a legendary singer and group during a historic period of change in America.

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Customer Reviews

An amazing inside look not only at the Staple Family but at the musical landscape of American Folk, Blues and Black Gospel music!! How the music of the 60's, and 70's crossed all categorical lines in the public arena!! A great read for all music lovers!!

Mavis Staples is a strong voice and this book is a strong read and it takes you through different paths and times this book talks about family time, talks about the industry and the various stages and aspects. very good book and alot of information. this is a good read and a artist who hasn't gotten her due and her family for that matter. the Staple Singers were always the truth musically.

Before I read this book, the only thing I knew about Mavis Staples the Staple Singers was their songs "I'll Take You There" and "Let's Do It Again". After reading this book, I realized how little I knew about the Staples family and how unfair I was to judge them by only two songs. The book presents the history of the family; their roots and their beginnings. It continues through through their early performances up to the present day. The author tells us about their friends in the music industry and I enjoyed imagining backyard barbeques with the Staples Family and Mahalia Jackson. Because they were somewhat before my time, I didn't know how popular they were at the height of their career nor how influential they were and the impact they had during the Civil Rights Movement. The author clearly enjoys their music as he describes their songs with a critics ear. Because some of his descriptions were so thoughtful, I looked up some of the songs on YouTube so I could hear what the author appreciated so much. He describes why they were game-changers in the music industry giving the reader an appreciation for their musical innovations and for their courage to sing their style music without mimicing others. I enjoyed reading this book. I just wish it came with an accompanying CD!

I choose this rating because of the content and historical significance to me. I liked it for the same reasons and because in some ways it is my story. I would recommend this book to anyone who grew up in this period, students and young people in the music business.

It Gives You Insight on Pop Staples and how he started the group and how the group progressed to stardom. It had some heartfelt and touching family moments. The author did a good job but, I usually like to get a story like this, in the first person's voice. It seemed a lot of the information later on, came from other people and not so much the Staples. I believe a lot of it was true but, I would have rather heard more of the actual Staple's thoughts and/or opinions. Otherwise, if you love the

Staple Singers like I do it's worth having this slice of their history.

Love Mavis. Love her family and its rich history, integrity and style. A good read. Music that stems from truth, history, faith, depth and joy. Just saw Mavis in concert last year. The power of Grace in this family and in Mavis is palpable. The concert was incredible and this is a great book to find out more about this elegant, magnificent soul and her family, and how it was in the beginning.

My husband and I both are reading it Mavis is a first class lady and singer My husband and I met her and the family in the 1970's at a club in Georgetown DC called the Cellar Door Mavis with her dad and the rest of the group stood and talked with us, like we were friends The book give a lot of insight of the times and the hardships many black artist had to endure Great reading you will not be disappointed Patricia Adams of Beltsville Maryland

The story begins on a cotton farm in the south and , several generations later, goes from there to Chicago and the world. Well told with contributions from all the Staples themselves, it details their rise from a local gospel group to a global " soul folk" group which sings message songs. An entertaining read and worth checking out.

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