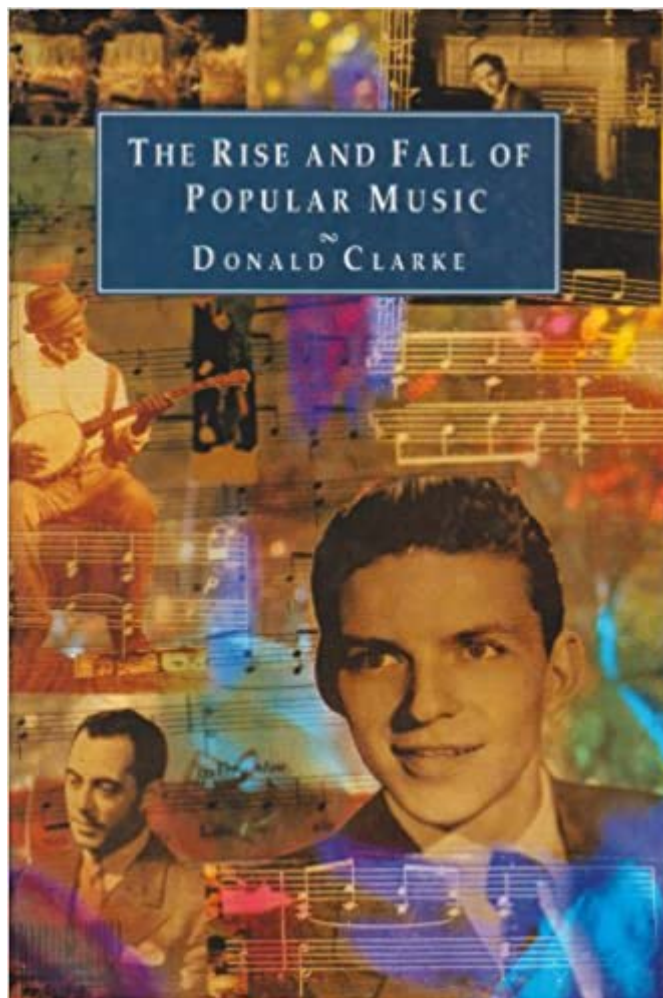


The book was found

The Rise And Fall Of Popular Music



Synopsis

An invaluable narrative history and commentary on the many facets of popular music includes balladry, minstrelsy, ragtime, blues, jazz, swing, pop, r&b, folk, country, gospel, rock 'n' roll, heavy metal, dance music, punk, New Wave, technopop, and rap.

Book Information

Hardcover: 620 pages

Publisher: St Martins Pr; 1st U.S. ed edition (February 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312115733

ISBN-13: 978-0312115739

Product Dimensions: 2.2 x 6.8 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.2 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,931,084 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Ethnic & International > World Beat](#) #4586 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Popular](#) #7130 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Forms & Genres > Popular](#)

Customer Reviews

A long but detailed read, chock full of information. It demands the readers attention, and if one is truly interested in the subject, gets it. While much pop music is casual, transient and doesn't keep your attention for long, this is a serious book, not in that same vein at all.

I'd recommend this book to anyone interested in the history of American music, especially jazz and blues. It's fascinating, well written and researched and a good read.

Having been a big band leader and professional musician until recently, I must applaud this book, because a lot of rock writers seem to want to revise history and try to tell us that there was nothing worthwhile before the Beatles, or even before Elvis. Oh, come on! Mr. Clark rightly points out the things leading to the "fall" and it didn't start with Mitch Miller. The post war disinterest on the part of the general public in Bop, probably set the stage for an increase in Novelty, and don't forget the explosion in Broadway Cast albums on LP. shortly thereafter. But the music on singles became increasingly banal around the mid-50's while adults seemed to go more for LP packages and singles

continued a downwardslide.(musically) as a vehicle for teen-age hits. By the 60's with guitar groups and such things got worse and as jazz writer Stanley Dance put it in the mid 60's "The amateur musician with his unkempt voice and clumsy rhythm has found a remarkably remunerative position in a do-it-yourself culture" How right that was, and, as someone put it, where did that lead to? Just tune in a top 40 radio station and hear for yourself !

If you want to read a book of music history regarding American popular music, do NOT buy this book! It is one of the worst "popular music" history books I've ever read. He loves jazz music and takes up for it roundly, but jazz is NOT popular music. Jazz is JAZZ! Popular music has the following items: R & B, Soul, Pop, Rockabilly, Rock and Roll, Hard Rock, New Wave, etc. Clarke shows a complete snobbish "let them eat cake" attitude toward any kind of music outside of jazz music. Don't get me wrong, I love jazz, too. But, I love many other forms of music, and British writer Clarke should not have written anything outside of classic jazz. He hates, Bill Haley, Buddy Holly, The Kinks, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Beach Boys, et. al. PLEASE save your money if you're looking for a book about music history! This is by far the worst excuse for it ever written (even worse than Nick Tosches).

This is not a bad overview of American popular music. Mr. Clarke is clearly a jazz fan who regards the days of Lester Young, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, et al. as the high point from which we have declined, and sees the present state of commercial popular music as a "culture of musical impoverishment." The career of A&R man Mitch Miller, the evil genius whose venality and lack of taste was a landmark in adult pop's precipitous decline in the 1950s, is touchingly portrayed. I think Clarke's conclusions are correct; however, this is a matter of taste to some degree. Many will think differently, no doubt. Read it anyway, along with Will Friedwald's history of Jazz Singing.

I particularly liked the start of this book that gave the origins of popular music from Europe. The author dwells a bit too much on the details of Jazz but his premise is well taken and he shows how and why pop music has become grunge, rap and muzak. He recognizes the originality in performers like the early Elvis and Hank Williams even though he regrets the decline of the real learned Jazz musicians. He shows how the corporate entities and listener surveys have destroyed a promising genre if it can be called that. Interesting that the Internet seems to be allowing real musicians to connect with the public directly without needing the middle corporate ground.

The premise of this book was largely in editorial fashion. I accept this as his prerogative however his views were often weakly supported and as a result unfounded. For example he lurches into a discussion about the racial struggles in the music industry. At the end of this section on rap music the reader only comes away with the taste of prejudice in her mouth (and I don't even advocate gangster rap music). The two stars I gave in the rating above were for the presentation of a comprehensive history which I respect. This book is required for a class of mine at the University of Toronto but the material is much too slanted for use as an introduction to the history of popular music. Therefore if you already have a good knowledge in this area and are interested in new perspectives then this would be the book for you. Otherwise, I would recommend you read something else first.

This is a fascinating book going back to the origins of popular music forms, going through jazz and blues and getting to today's pop music. A main theme of the book appears to be that the further the music gets away from its roots, the less musical value it has. And then today too much music has just become product to sell with little musical value. Sometimes a bit too opinionated, but mainly an excellent analysis of the fall of pop music.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Rise and Fall of Popular Music: A Narrative History from the Renaissance to Rock 'n' Roll
The Rise and Fall of Popular Music
OVER 200 Effortless Gourmet Thanksgiving Dinner, Winter and Fall Recipes - Autumn Favorites - Soups, Salads, Entrees, Sides, Desserts: Fall and Winter ... - Thanksgiving, Fall, Autumn and Winter)
King of Capital: The Remarkable Rise, Fall, and Rise Again of Steve Schwarzman and Blackstone
That's Not How We Do It Here!: A Story about How Organizations Rise and Fall--and Can Rise Again
Fitz-John Porter, Scapegoat of Second Manassas: The Rise, Fall and Rise of the General
Accused of Disobedience
A Star Shattered: The Rise & Fall & Rise of Wrestling Diva
Popular 8 Note Hymns: Music Patterns for Xylophone, Glockenspiel, Recorder, Bells and Piano (Popular 8 Note Songs) (Volume 2)
Where Did Our Love Go?: The Rise and Fall of the Motown Sound (Music in American Life)
Blank Sheet Music - 12 Staves: Blank Sheet Music Paper / Music Sheet Music / Sheet Music Notebook (Volume 59)
Blank Piano Sheet Music : (8.5 by 11) Large Print - Music Manuscript Notebook - (Composition Books - Music Manuscript Paper - Piano Sheet Music) Blank ... For Piano 104 Pages Vol.9: Blank Sheet Music
Blank Sheet Music - 12 Staves: Blank Sheet Music Paper / Music Sheet Music / Sheet Music Notebook - Vintage / Aged Cover (Volume 6)
Law and Popular Culture: A Course Book, 2nd Edition (Politics, Media, and Popular Culture)
Popular Performer -- Rodgers and Hart: The Songs of

Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart (Popular Performer Series) History of Religious Orders: A Compendious and Popular Sketch of the Rise and Progress of the Principal Monastic, Canonical, Military, Mendicant, and Clerical Orders and Congregations of the Churches Adult Piano Adventures Popular Book 1: Timeless Hits and Popular Favorites The Complete Portrait Manual (Popular Photography): 200+ Tips and Techniques for Shooting Perfect Photos of People (Popular Photography Books) 100 Most Popular Genre Fiction Authors: Biographical Sketches and Bibliographies (Popular Authors (Hardcover)) Popular Culture: 2000 and Beyond (A History of Popular Culture) Adult Piano Adventures Popular Book 2: Timeless Hits and Popular Favorites

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)