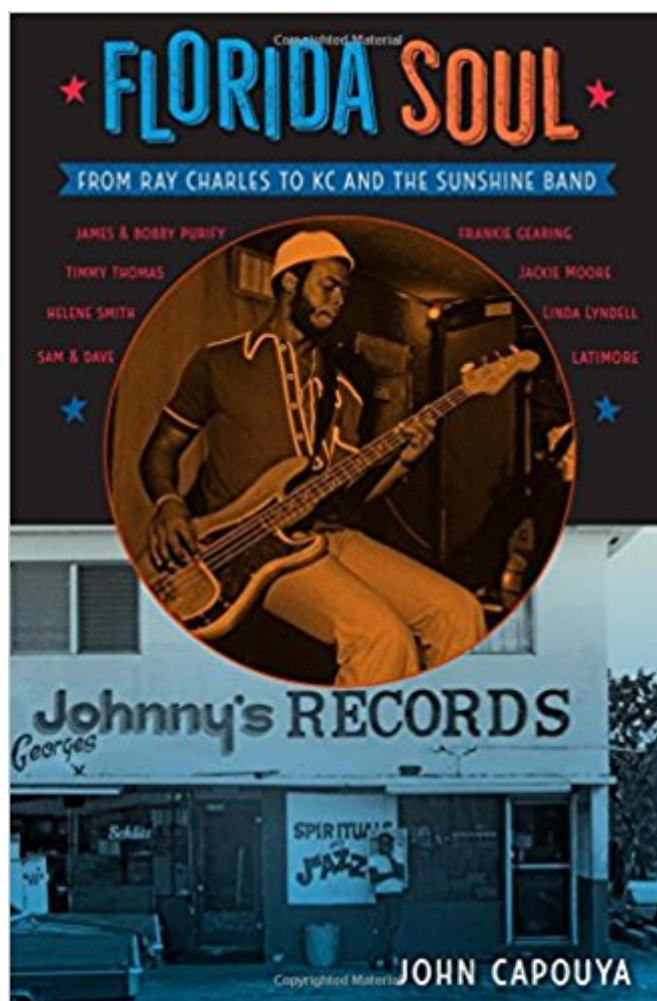


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Florida Soul: From Ray Charles To KC And The Sunshine Band



Synopsis

When recalling the roots of soul music, most people are likely to name Memphis, Detroit, New Orleans, Muscle Shoals, or Macon. But Florida also has a rich soul music history--an important cultural legacy that has often gone unrecognized. Florida Soul celebrates great artists of the Sunshine State who produced some of the most electric, emotive soul music America has ever heard. This book tells the story of Ray Charles's musical upbringing in Florida, where he wrote his first songs and made his first recordings. It highlights the careers of Pensacola singers James and Bobby Purify and their producer, Papa Don Schroeder. Florida Soul reveals how Hank Ballard created his international hit song "The Twist" after seeing the dance in Tampa and profiles Gainesville singer Linda Lyndell ("What a Man"). Miami's Overtown and Liberty City neighborhoods produced Sam Moore of the legendary duo Sam and Dave, Willie Clarke and Johnny Pearsall of Deep City Records, and singer Helene Smith. Miami was also the longtime headquarters of Henry Stone, whose influential company T.K. Productions put out hits by Timmy Thomas, Latimore, Betty Wright, and KC and the Sunshine Band. Stone's artists and distribution deals influenced charts and radio airplay across the world. Born in the era of segregation with origins in gospel, rhythm and blues, and jazz and reaching maturity during the civil rights movement, soul music is still enjoyed today, still very much a part of our collective culture. John Capouya draws on extensive interviews with surviving musicians to re-create the excitement and honor the achievements of soul's golden age, establishing Florida as one of the great soul music capitals of the United States.

Book Information

Hardcover: 408 pages

Publisher: University Press of Florida (September 12, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813054524

ISBN-13: 978-0813054520

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.2 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #377,856 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 in [Books > Arts &](#)

[Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Soul](#) #1169 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music](#)

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Customer Reviews

"Capouya (journalism & writing, Univ. of Tampa; Gorgeous George) adds a significant entry to the scholarship on soul music with this title. He maintains that the state of Florida made valuable contributions to soul, on par with notable soul capitals such as Memphis, Detroit, Chicago, and Philadelphia. Capouya provides 20 profiles of exceptional Floridian soul musicians, ranging from the obscure (Linda Lyndell, Wayne Cochran, Frankie Gearing) to the popular (Ray Charles, Sam Moore of Sam & Dave, KC and the Sunshine Band). Throughout these profiles, a portrait of how racial segregation and post-Civil Rights Act integration in Florida affected both black and white musicians emerges. Because many of his subjects are spread widely across the state, Capouya's thesis about Florida as a soul capital falters slightly. If there is one figurehead, it is Henry Stone, the owner of TK Productions, whose session players included hit makers Timmy Thomas, Latimore, Betty Wright, Little Beaver, and Chocolate Perry. VERDICT Recommended for those already well versed in the history of soul looking to learn more; especially essential for libraries in Florida."--Library Journal

"Entertaining and colorful, Capouya's book assures that the Sunshine State gets its due alongside the musical hubs of Detroit, Memphis, and New Orleans."--Publishers Weekly

"The story of a state long denied its place in soul capitals. Capouya tells quite a tale, taking us from the legends RC to KC; from Jackie Moore to Sam Moore; to many more."--Jeffrey M. Lemlich, author of *Savage Lost: Florida Garage Bands, the '60s and Beyond*

"Capouya reaches back over eighty years to tell the often overlooked history of Florida's vibrant soul music scene, painting the music and its makers with sympathetic insight and an eye for detail."--Michael Lydon, author of *Ray Charles: Man and Music*

"Engaging and comprehensive. Spotlighting the rich and underappreciated histories of R&B, soul, funk, and disco in Florida, Capouya contributes greatly to our understanding of the music and its contexts."--Charles L. Hughes, author of *Country Soul: Making Music and Making Race in the American South*

"Shows us the great artists who changed the nation's music and culture. A superb read."--William McKeen, author of *Everybody Had an Ocean: Music and Mayhem in 1960s Los Angeles*

"Capouya smoothly weaves together the diverse sounds of one of the key regions in American music history. He discusses Florida history, soul knowledge, and the arc of uneven racial progress and does it as gracefully as a Timmy Thomas wail."--RJ Smith, author of *The One: The Life and Music of James Brown*

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