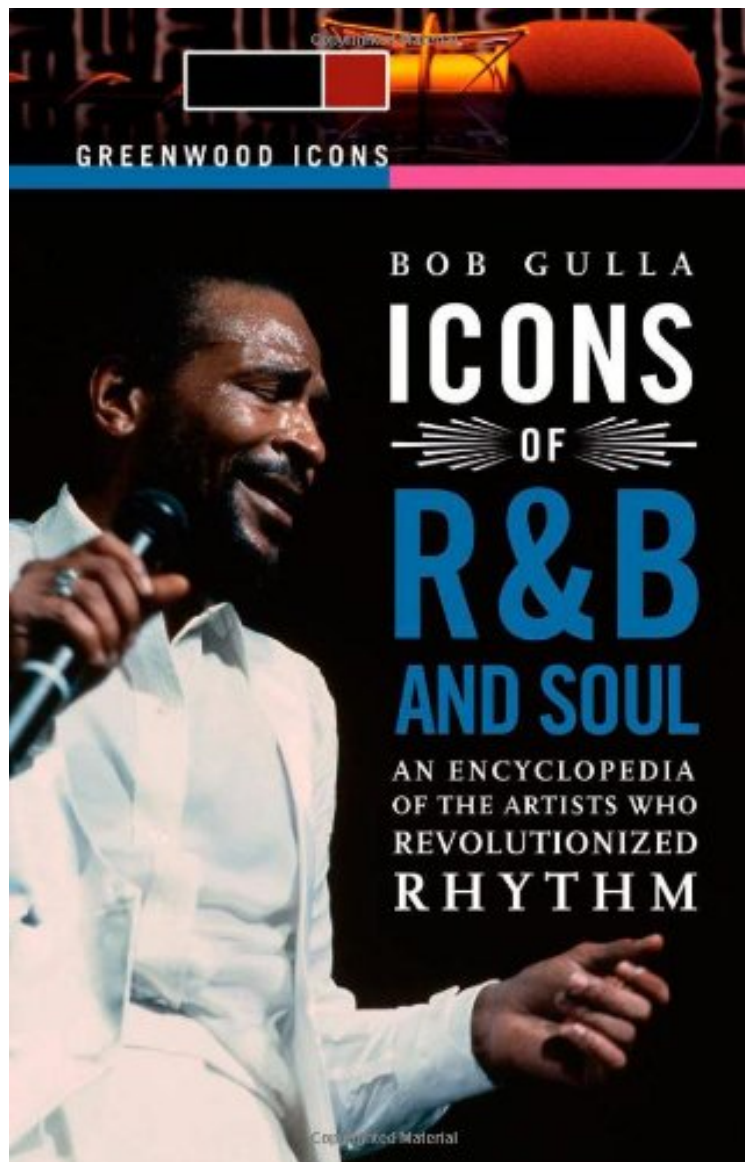


(Download pdf ebook) Icons of RB and Soul [2 volumes]: An Encyclopedia of the Artists Who Revolutionized Rhythm (Greenwood Icons)

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*From Greenwood*

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**From Greenwood : Icons of RB and Soul [2 volumes]: An Encyclopedia of the Artists Who Revolutionized Rhythm (Greenwood Icons)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Icons of RB and Soul [2 volumes]: An Encyclopedia of the Artists Who Revolutionized Rhythm (Greenwood

Icons):

Drawn from a mosaic of influences, including folk, gospel, and blues, RB represents both everything that came before and nothing that was heard before. This is the music that bridged the gap between audiences and helped, at the very height of racism in America, to dismantle racial barriers. So much of today's music is derived directly from the highly influential and critically important sounds of RB that without it we would have never known the classic soul of the late '50s and '60s, the glory days of the genre. Similarly, rock n' roll as seen through the eyes of Bill Haley and Elvis Presley would have never evolved without the foundation laid by their RB predecessors. Through substantial entries on the chief architects and innovators, *Icons of RB and Soul* offers a vibrant overview of the music's impact in American culture and how it reflected contemporary society's politics, trends, and social issues. Numerous sidebars highlight Motown, prominent record labels, hit songs, related singers and songwriters, key events, and significant aspects of the music industry. Also included is a list of important print and Web resources, as well as a list of selected recordings. An essential reference for high school and public libraries, this encyclopedia will help students explore the historical and cultural framework of RB and soul music through the musicians who have come to define the genre. Among the featured: -Ray Charles -Little Richard -Fats Domino New Orleans RB -Ruth Brown -Sam Cooke -Etta James -James Brown -Aretha Franklin -The Supremes -Otis Redding -Ike Tina Turner -Curtis Mayfield -Berry Gordy -Stevie Wonder -Marvin Gaye -Smokey Robinson -The Temptations -Prince

From School Library Journal  
Grade 7 Up  
In the preface to these volumes, Gulla opines that given the information available on the Web, he was surprised to find a relatively unexplored topic. And he is right; this work does fill a void. The introduction provides some historical context as well as justifications for which artists were included, followed by a time line. The 24 main entries are arranged chronologically. While the author was selective, all of the giants, from Ray Charles to Prince, are here. The limited scope is a virtue, as it gives the author space to consider the career of each artist in some detail. While some may quibble about the subjective method for selecting the "most significant contributors" to these musical genres, most who read these entries will come away with something new. Logical subheadings guide readers through the material, and the writing is consistently more compelling than most standard-issue reference prose. Gulla pushes these portraits beyond formulaic biographies by providing some real thought about the role of these artists and their music in a much larger social and historical context. Three of the articles are from guest contributors, and Jesse Jarnow's description of Prince performing at the Super Bowl is especially vivid. The bibliographies, discographies, filmographies, and lists of Web sites are extensive. This set will be useful for reports on these musical legends. Tim Wadham, St. Louis Public Library, MO Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "As with other entries in the series, the articles in these three volumes feature a nice mix of scholarly excellence and great reading appeal. The editor/authors were chosen for their breadth of knowledge, and much care was taken to present the topics in a way that provides context. Expect to find a time line of significant events, followed by entries with essential historical data and a legacy discussion pointing out the significance of the icon to the genre. Signed articles are accompanied by further reading and interspersed with chronologies and interesting sidebars. These sets are excellent for students requiring authoritative studies yet popular enough in writing style to allow for leisure reading. Recommended as solid encyclopedias of important figures, so purchase as interest warrants for school, public, and college library reference collections." - Library Journal  
"This biographical dictionary examines the innovations of 24 RB artists. From Ray Charles to Prince, the detailed entries intimately describe the lives, backgrounds, careers and contributions of some of the most influential figures in the creation of RB music. The extended essays capture not only the details of personal lives but also the distinctive creative processes involved in composing, performing and recording music. Inevitably, the discussion also embraces a number of genres from early rock and roll to soul, disco and funk. The scope includes individual performers as well as prominent groups. Also highlighted are the studio efforts of the architects the Philadelphia sound, the producing team of Kenny Gamble, Leon Huff and Thom Bell.. Each entry includes a selective discography and suggestions for further reading. Numerous sidebars feature related artists, music companies, songs and selected issues." - Lawrence Looks at Books  
"With its extended essay format, *Icons of RB and Soul* is recommended for both large and small collections. Its depth of coverage makes it appropriate for large collections as a useful supplement to standard popular music reference works." - Reference User Services Quarterly  
"In *Icons of RB and Soul*, author Gulla includes a diverse group of artists. Most of the 24 articles treat the essential royalty, such as James Brown and Aretha Franklin, but there is also a pleasant surprise--a lengthy entry on Dusty Springfield, the most acclaimed British RB singer. These works are recommended for high-school and public libraries as well as academic libraries with popular-culture collections. (Joint review with *Icons of Rock*)." - Booklist  
"Secondary or college students and interested readers are treated to compact essays of RB and Soul artists who have made an impact on pop and popular culture. The essays are linear beginning with childhood. They follow the artist's life, touching on personal as well as musical ups and downs. The volumes are

arranged chronologically in order to show the evolution of the music. Included with each entry are black-and-white photos of the artist, an assessment of his/her legacy, a selected discography, and a further reading section. Volume one also begins with an RB and Soul time line and volume two has a bibliography of books and music." - MultiCultural

"In the preface to these volumes, Gulla opines that given the information available on the Web, he was surprised to find a relatively unexplored topic. And he is right; this work does fill a void. While the author was selective, all of the giants, from Ray Charles to Prince, are here. The limited scope is a virtue, as it gives the author space to consider the career of each artist in some detail. Logical subheadings guide readers through the material, and the writing is consistently more compelling than most standard-issue reference prose. The bibliographies, discographies, filmographies, and lists of Web sites are extensive. This set will be useful for reports on these musical legends." - School Library Journal

"[A]n excellent, two-volume, in-depth survey of musicians and their contributions to changing the atmosphere of rock and soul music. Each featured musician receives biographical coverage, a history of hits, social issues of their times affecting their music, a discography and more. An outstanding survey recommended for any music library strong in popular and soul music." - Midwest Book /Internet Bookwatch". . . recommended for school and public libraries." - ARBA

About the Author Bob Gulla is a professional writer and co-author of The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Rock History (2005).