



## Bill Wyman's Blues Odyssey

*Bill Wyman , Richard Havers*

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### **Bill Wyman's Blues Odyssey** Bill Wyman , Richard Havers

In this evocative and intensely personal history of the blues, Bill Wyman pays tribute to the musicians who inspired him and whose music he took around the world as a member of the Rolling Stones. The starting point of Bill's Odyssey is the journey of African slaves to the plantations of America's Deep South. We follow their descendants as they walk, travel the highways, and ride the railroads out of the Delta and the troubled South via Memphis to the northern cities of Chicago and St. Louis. But this is no superficial history: Bill Wyman's in-depth odyssey reveals a society where poverty and injustice as well as love and faith, found their expression in a musical style that gave birth to rock 'n' roll. Location shots of smoky juke joints, railroad stations, and endless highways combine with richly detailed maps to bring the Blues alive. Feature spreads with previously unpublished photographs from Bill Wyman's personal archive showcase 40 Blues legends from Robert Johnson to John Lee Hooker, telling the story of their fascinating and often troubled lives. Bill Wyman is a legend in his own right. He has known and played with many of the Blues legends, and his personal knowledge and unprecedented access give this book an authenticity that is almost impossible to match.

### **Bill Wyman's Blues Odyssey Details**

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## From Reader Review Bill Wyman's Blues Odyssey for online ebook

### Thomas says

Wer schon immer mal alles über den Blues wissen wollte, der liest das Buch von Ex-Stones-Bassist Bill Wyman. Das Standardwerk.

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### Diann Blakely says

If you haven't lived down South for more than a decade, read Faulkner, or been sure which mall your musician friends are talking about when they mention "Crossroads," you may want to do a little homework before reading the eponymously titled BILL WYMAN'S BLUES ODYSSEY, which is also described as covering the birth of the blues in "the troubled South." This is news, even in England?

Americans, in general, will doubtless find more interesting the passages in which Wyman brings his thoroughly unique and authentic experience of what it's like to be a working class English kid, fall in love with the blues, start playing bass with some guys named Keith and Mick and Charlie and Brian, and then re-experience the blues while crisscrossing the South with the world's greatest rock 'n' roll band from 1964 until 1989, when the bassist retired. You can't go home again, but no matter where your origins lie, you can journey in the direction of downhome with BILL WYMAN'S BLUES ODYSSEY, whose eye-catching layout and lavish illustrations will go well with whatever personal soundtrack you wish—in the best blues fashion—to improvise.

(originally published in the NASHVILLE SCENE)

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### George says

An outstanding history of the blues.

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### Eric says

This is a really great primer on blues players. Loads of photos in addition to a very well laid out and written text.

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## Michael says

I was thinking as I read this book, that there was a lot of information in here - some I knew, a lot I didn't especially of the 1920's to 40's blues scenes. And I was thinking, the book is relatively recent. It was published in 2001, which actually makes the book a bit older. If you don't know much about blues music and want a primer to get you a full history, you can't go wrong with this. Mr. Wyman, of course, is most well known as the bass player in the Rolling Stones. Without him saying it so many words, I sense that Bill felt the band lost its way the further it strayed away from the blues. The book starts with a brief synopsis of slavery and the slave trade, especially how it progressed in the US and how it eventually was outlawed through the Civil War. While I feel he gets a few details wrong, his overall summary gives you the general idea. This introduction is important for anyone wanting to know from where the blues evolved and what some of the phrases mean, then this is essential background. The book will become a useful resource for my radio show. Thanks to Adrian of our local public library for finding it for me at a garage sale.

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## Genie says

A combination of African-American history and music history, Wyman covers the development of unique American music: the blues. Illustrated with photographs, maps, drawings, portraits, time lines and record cover reproductions, the book covers nearly 400 years of American history. From its beginning during years of slavery to the modern-day musicians, this is a comprehensive look at the blues. Early blues musicians like Papa Charlie Jackson (one of the first bluesmen to record in Chicago), Ma Rainey who is credited with bridging the gap between "urban" and "country" blues; and John Lee Hooker who remained true to the Delta blues tradition. Specific songs are discussed telling who has covered them and when. Other topics include information about instruments, geographical locations and record labels. Chapters are devoted to how society's racial reactions music during the 1950's, heavily influenced by radio, helped erode the differences between black and white. Published as the companion volume to the Bravo special of the same name, Wyman explains the connections between blues and jazz, rock'n'roll, and country music. This is a fine reference book that belongs in the library of anyone interested in Blues and/or Jazz.

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## Bubba says

Not only a Rolling Stone, but he know's a lot about American music, from the 19th century to the present.

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