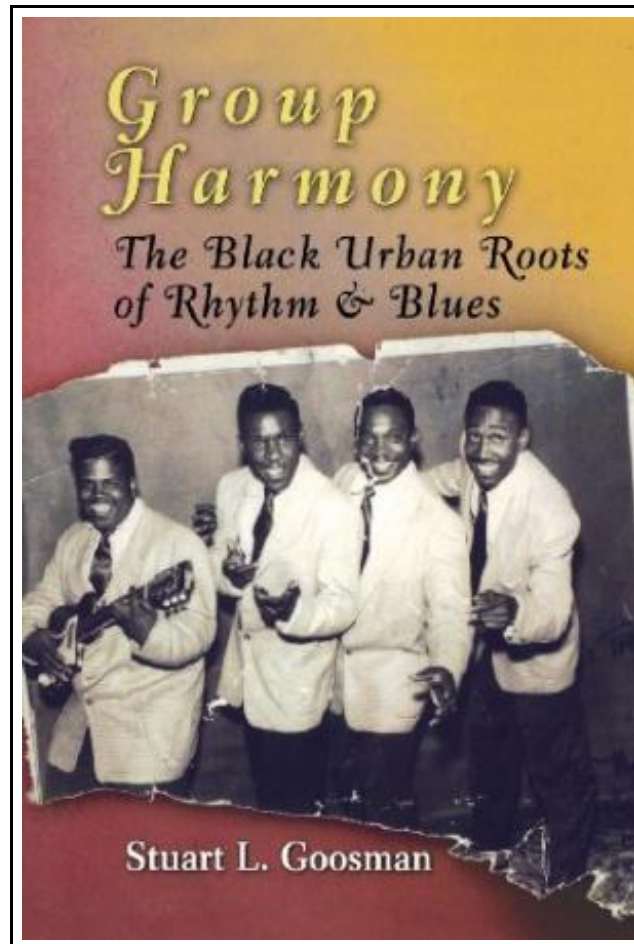


Group Harmony: The Black Urban Roots of Rhythm and Blues



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Reviews

A really awesome book with lucid and perfect information. Of course, it is actually play, nonetheless an amazing and interesting literature. You are going to like just how the article writer create this ebook.

(Nakia Toy Jr.)

GROUP HARMONY: THE BLACK URBAN ROOTS OF RHYTHM AND BLUES

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University of Pennsylvania Press, United States, 2010. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 226 x 145 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. In 1948, the Orioles, a Baltimore-based vocal group, recorded *It's Too Soon to Know*. Combining the sound of Tin Pan Alley with gospel and blues sensibilities, the Orioles saw their first hit reach #13 on the pop charts, thus introducing the nation to vocal rhythm blues and paving the way for the most successful groups of the 1950s. In the first scholarly treatment of this influential musical genre, Stuart Goosman chronicles the Orioles story and that of myriad other black vocal groups in the postwar period. A few, like the Orioles, Cardinals, and Swallows from Baltimore and the Clovers from Washington, D.C., established the popularity of vocal rhythm blues nationally. Dozens of other well-known groups (and hundreds of unknown ones) across the country cut records and performed until about 1960. Record companies initially marketed this music as rhythm blues; today, group harmony continues to resonate for some as doo-wop. Focusing in particular on Baltimore and Washington and drawing significantly from oral histories, *Group Harmony* details the emergence of vocal rhythm blues groups from black urban neighborhoods. Group harmony was a source of empowerment for young singers, for it provided them with a means of expression and some aspect of control over their lives where there were limited alternatives. Through group harmony, young black males celebrated and musically confounded, when they could not overcome, complex issues of race, separatism, and assimilation during the postwar period. Group harmony also became a significant resource for the popular music industry. Goosman interviews dozens of performers, deejays, and industry professionals to examine the entrepreneurial promise of midcentury popular music and chronicle the convergence of music, place, and business, including the business of records,...

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