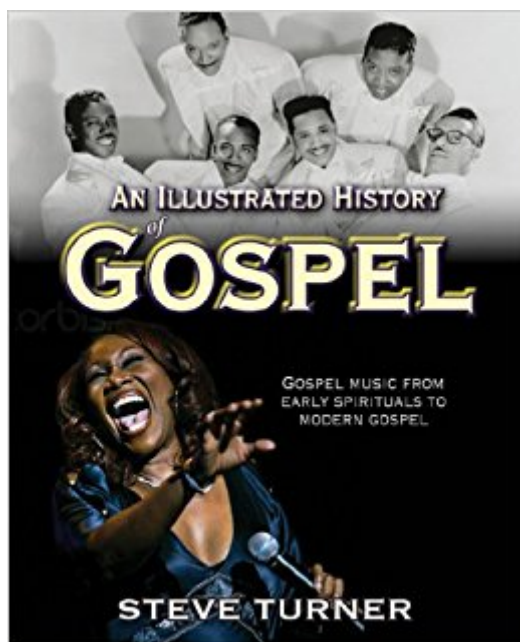


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# An Illustrated History Of Gospel



## Synopsis

From early spirituals to urban gospel, this definitive guide to gospel music expounds in great detail upon the most highly praised but least well known of the influences to contemporary rock, soul, and rap. Far beyond its immediate image of robed choirs, gospel's through its solo singers and quartets, its impresarios and recording companies has helped to give voice to the history of black people in America as well as shaping more obviously secular musical forms such as blues and rock and roll. In this compelling and lively study, the story of gospel is told against the backdrop of over a century and a half of social and economic changes taking place in America. Its history is traced from its earliest expressions on the plantations of the south to initial influences in churches, its movement into the mainstream of popular music, and on to its major period of popularity and influence in the middle decades of the 20th century. Also featuring original interviews conducted by the author with many legendary figures of gospel and illustrated with gorgeous full-color photographs throughout, this authoritative guide to gospel music covers slavery and spirituals; the 1920s and Thomas Dorsey; the Golden age from 1945 to the 1960s and Mahalia Jackson; the 80s and Aretha Franklin; as well as the urban gospel of today including dance, hip hop, R&B, and more.

## Book Information

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Religious & Sacred Music

## Customer Reviews

147; a definitive guide to 150 years of gospel music. - Vicksburg Post

Steve Turner is an experienced music journalist and biographer whose articles have appeared in Rolling Stone and the Times, among others. He is the author of *Amazing Grace*, *Cliff Richard: The Bachelor Boy*, *A Hard Day's Write*, *The Man Called Cash*, and *Trouble Man: The Life and Death of Marvin Gaye*.

I have truly enjoyed this book. I've shared it with my friends, and they are purchasing this also. There is some much vital information for my generation. I have enjoyed it so much, words can not express how happy I am to have this in my collection. This is a must have history of Gospel music!!

"An Illustrated History of Gospel" is an easy, yet informative read about the history of Gospel music. As someone who is not familiar with the Black Gospel genre, I found the selected inclusion of artists, changes in musical style, theology, interviews, and political context very insightful. Most appreciated were the many pictures of the artists. This book is well assembled and will be an enjoyable read for those wanting to learn about this genre, as well as those who already know the history. Definitely recommend!

Great book-I'm very pleased with it-it's a great addition to my CCM and Gospel music library.

"An Illustrated History of Gospel: Gospel Music From Early Spirituals to Modern Gospel" is a tour de force of photojournalism documentaries on the history, development and powerful influences of the genre labeled gospel. Steve Turner knows his subject well, indeed his love of gospel is clear and underlying every chapter, sentence and verse of "An Illustrated History of Gospel." Beginning as an expression of spirituality and Christianity among African American slaves, gospel continued to evolve through social and economic changes including segregation, and finally gospel became a major component of both black and white Christian worship practices as well as a strong influence on popular mainstream music including rock, jazz, and blues style music as well as others. "An Illustrated History of Gospel;" is embellished by fantastic photos, both in color and black and white, featuring famous performers and performing groups of gospel singers. "An Illustrated History of Gospel" is a music history text whose time is now, whose appeal is immense. In addition to the fabulous repertoire of photos of historical great gospel influences, such intriguing snippets of history as an "Interview with Bill 'Hoss' Allen (1922-97), Nashville, 29 April 1976" are included in 3 pages of (beige) contrasting color insets. What it covers is a fascinating question and answer interview of a

famous white gospel performer and show organizer, or radio gospel show producer and host. (p,101-104). many other fascinating presentations of details and facts relating to black gospel development are featured. The relationship between gospel and the folk music revival, spawned partly at the pivotal Newport Jazz Festivals around 1958 and later is presented and explored. Many famous gospel or gospel-influenced performers are showcased in "An Illustrated History of Gospel." A curious component use of the text is suggested by its inclusion, at the end of the bibliography, of an index of songs and an index of names. It should be possible for an interested reader to look up the desired gospel reference, whether it be a specific song or a specific artist's name. Whether it be photojournalism driven music history or a clear understanding of both the roots and impact of gospel on jazz, folk and rock as well as contemporary Christian music, "An Illustrated History of Gospel" presents the best of both worlds. This beautiful book is a treat to read and enjoy visually.

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