

HISTORY



Roundtable est. 2017

January's Topic: Music History

Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 27th, 2026 at 6:30pm

Register at www.greenwoodlibrary.us or by calling 317-881-1953.

More info and handout at www.greenwoodlibrary.us/historyroundtable.

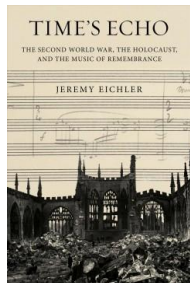
Read. Watch. Listen. Discuss. Read any non-fiction book, watch a documentary, and/or listen to a podcast pertaining to **Music History**. Once you've read/watched/listened to the item, come to the roundtable prepared to summarize your book/video/podcast for all the participants. Possible resources include (but are not limited to) –

Books:



[Unspooled: How the Cassette Made Music Shareable](#) by Rob Drew – NONFICTION ENTERTAINMENT MUSIC Drew

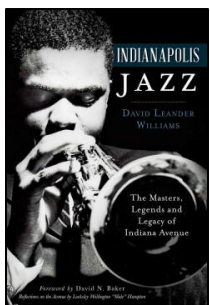
Unspooled examines the history of the audio cassette within the context of indie rock musical subcultures. Focusing on how the cassette heralded new modes of music sharing, intimacy, and communication through forms such as the mix tape, Drew argues that the format's emotional resonance is tied to its shareability. Each chapter traces the cassette's history and evolution, from its predecessor open-reel tape and treatment in the music industry, to prominence in unauthorized secondhand music distribution. Positioning itself within discourses about the political economy of sound and the history of music technology, *Unspooled* offers an extended account of the role cassettes played in popular music cultures.



[Time's Echo: The Second World War, the Holocaust, and the Music of Remembrance](#) by Jeremy Eichler – NONFICTION HISTORY WWII HOLOCASUT Eichler

When it comes to how societies remember these increasingly distant dreams and catastrophes, we often think of history books, archives, documentaries, or memorials carved from stone. But in *Time's Echo*, the award-winning critic and cultural historian Jeremy Eichler makes a passionate and revelatory case for the power of music as culture's memory, an art form uniquely capable of carrying forward meaning from the past. With a critic's ear, a scholar's erudition, and a novelist's eye for detail, Eichler shows how four towering composers--Richard Strauss, Arnold Schoenberg, Dmitri Shostakovich, and Benjamin Britten--lived through the era of the Second World War and the Holocaust

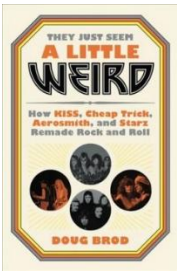
and later transformed their experiences into deeply moving, transcendent works of music, scores that echo lost time.



[Indianapolis Jazz: The Masters, Legends and Legacy of Indiana Avenue](#) by David Leander Williams – via Evergreen Indiana*; [eBook via Libby*](#); [eBook via Hoopla*](#)

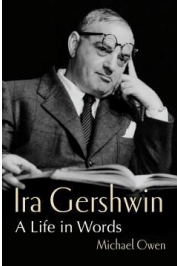
Get into the music with David Leander Williams as he charts the rise and fall of Indiana Avenue, the Majestic Entertainment Boulevard of Indianapolis, which produced some of the nation's most influential jazz artists. The performance venues that once lined the vibrant thoroughfare were an important stop on the Chitlin' Circuit and provided platforms for greats like Freddie Hubbard and Jimmy Coe. Through this biography of the bustling street, meet scores of the other musicians who came to prominence in the avenue's heyday, including trombonist J.J. Johnson and guitarist Wes Montgomery, as well as songwriters like Noble Sissle

and Leroy Carr.



[They Just seem a Little Weird: How KISS, Cheap Trick, Aerosmith, and Starz remade Rock and Roll](#) by Doug Brod – via Evergreen Indiana*; [eBook via Libby](#)*

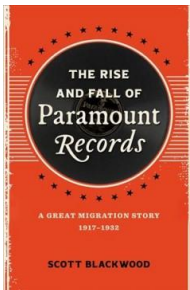
Veteran entertainment journalist Doug Brod offers an eye- and ear-opening look at a crucial moment in music history, when rock became fun again and a gig became a show. This is the story of friends and frenemies who rose, fell, and soared once more, often sharing stages, studios, producers, engineers, managers, agents, roadies, and fans-and who are still collaborating more than forty years on.



[Ira Gershwin: A Life in Words](#) by Michael Owen – NONFICTION ENTERTAINMENT MUSIC Owen; [eBook via Libby](#)*

The first lyricist to win the Pulitzer Prize, Ira Gershwin (1896–1983) has been hailed as one of the masters of the Great American Songbook, a period which covers songs written largely for Broadway and Hollywood from the 1920s to the 1950s. Now, in the first full-length biography devoted to his life, Michael Owen brings Ira out at last from the long shadow cast by his younger and more famous brother George. Drawing on extensive archival sources and often using Ira's own words, Owen has crafted a rich portrait of the modest man who penned the words to many

of America's best-loved songs.



[The Rise and Fall of Paramount Records](#) by Scott Blackwood – NONFICTION ENTERTAINMENT MUSIC Blackwood

Founded in 1917, Paramount Records was but one of the home-grown record labels of the New York Recording Laboratories (NYRL), a subsidiary of a chair company in Wisconsin with operations near Lake Michigan. It is the story of the legacy of the Great Migration and how blues, jazz, and folk music transcended boundaries, and how this almost never happened. Blackwood brings to life these many moments-through creative nonfiction-and makes present and full-blooded what hadn't been brought to life before.



[3 Shades of Blue : Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Bill Evans, and the Lost Empire of Cool](#) by James Kaplan – NONFICTION ENTERTAINMENT MUSIC Kaplan; [eAudio via Libby](#)*

From the author of the definitive biography of Frank Sinatra, the story of how jazz arrived at the pinnacle of American culture in 1959, told through the journey of three towering artists-Miles Davis, John Coltrane, and Bill Evans-who came together to create the most famous and bestselling jazz album of all time, *Kind of Blue*. The tapestry of their lives is, in Kaplan's hands, an American Odyssey, with no direction home. It is also a masterpiece, a book about jazz that is as big as America.

Video:



[The Music Makers of Gennett Records](#) via WTIU PBS

During the early 20th century, one tiny recording studio in Richmond, Indiana, had a big impact on the soundtrack of the Jazz Age. The Music Makers of Gennett Records tells the unlikely story of the Gennett Recording Studios, where many of the greatest artists in American jazz, blues, country, and gospel music first recorded.

Podcasts:



[The Music History Project](#) by NAMM Resource Center via Spotify

NAMM's resident Music Historian Dan Del Fiorentino and co-hosts examine the innovative creations, evolution of musical instruments, the changing world of music retail, music industry icons, and other topics covered in NAMM's Oral History program. The NAMM Oral History program boasts over 4,500 interviews and is continually growing.



[A History of Rock Music in 500 Songs](#) hosted by Andrew Hickey available via Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, and Spotify

A history of rock music from 1938 to 1999 told by the five hundred songs that shaped the genre.

*=requires GPL Evergreen Indiana card