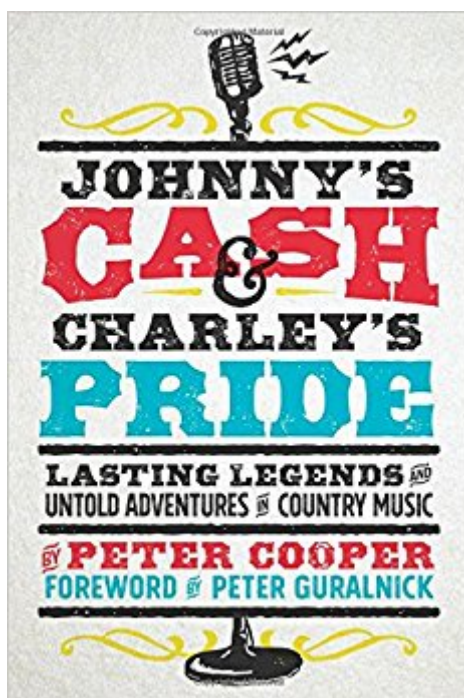


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# Johnny's Cash And Charley's Pride: Lasting Legends And Untold Adventures In Country Music



## Synopsis

Peter Guralnick, dean of rock-and-roll-storytellers, writes in the introduction to *Johnny Cash & Charley Pride*, “Peter Cooper has always been in the mix. Whether spending time with Johnny Cash or Kris Kristofferson, playing bass for Loretta Lynn, discussing songwriting with Taylor Swift, or introducing the Grateful Dead to Porter Wagoner, Peter Cooper has continually found himself in the presence of music royalty and the recipient of countless intimate conversations, asides, and confidences. In *Johnny Cash & Charley Pride: Lasting Legends and Untold Adventures in Country Music*, Cooper chronicles his many “in the mix” tales since arriving in Nashville in 2000 to cover the country music scene for the *Tennessean*. Filled with untold stories and newly revealed histories, it is an informal yet well-studied inside view of country music’s greatest characters and pivotal moments. Now a senior director at the Country Music Hall of Fame, Cooper’s stories are akin to a curated behind-the-scenes tour of country music. Spanning nineteen chapters, Cooper offers an original take on the formative days at WSM and engaging introductions to an ensemble cast of country music’s icons, quirks, and golden-but-hidden personalities. With a gem on every page, Cooper has crafted a perceptive, smiling, and atypical immersion into the world of country music that will keep any music fan engaged with its wit, passion, and authenticity.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“An eminently readable romp|Cooper’s an obvious expert on the unique history of (country) music and (Nashville), but what comes across most strongly is his genuine love

for the music. It's that passion which makes this a delightful and poignant read. -- American Songwriter magazine "Like most things that are good, it's hard to classify the book: it's a memoir; it's an encyclopedic record of the Old Testament-esque origins of country music; it's a behind-the-scenes look at legends struggling with mortality and legacy. They're all remembered with dignity, sincerity, humor, and heartfelt conviction with writing that's tight and clean and erudite and all those other words writers use to describe good writing. I suggest picking up a copy of Johnny Cash and Charley Pride. You won't be disappointed." -- NATIVE magazine "I really enjoyed this book. Reading about the Cowboy brought back many great memories." -- John Prine, Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame member "Peter Cooper looks at the world with an artist's eye and a human heart and soul." -- Kris Kristofferson "Readers will be hard-pressed to find a selection in Cooper's book that lacks humor and humanity." -- The Bluegrass Situation "The art of the stories is in the telling, which is where Cooper wins the argument. Arriving at the end of this sparkling collection, few will doubt that writing about music is exactly what Cooper should be doing." -- The Washington Post "After I finished reading, I felt as though I had been to a family reunion, for a family that was totally dysfunctional except for the fact that everyone could be instantly bonded by Mother Maybelle Carter picking the 'Wildwood Flower.' It is a beautifully written book." -- Tom T. Hall, member of the Country Music Hall of Fame "All I can say is, (Peter Cooper) is one hell of a writer." -- Hank Williams Jr. "Musician, singer, songwriter, producer, author, professor, and music journalist. Peter Cooper is a modern day renaissance man." -- Bob Edwards, NPR

Peter Cooper is an award-winning musician and respected music journalist. He is the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum's Senior Director, Producer, and Writer, and a senior lecturer in country music at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music. He is a Grammy-nominated music producer, and a songwriter whose works have been recorded by John Prine, Bobby Bare, Jim Lauderdale, and others. He has appeared on The Tonight Show and The Late Show with David Letterman and was, along with the like of the Kings of Leon and financial guru Dave Ramsey, named one of Nashville's "10 Most Interesting People" by Nashville Arts & Entertainment magazine. Peter Guralnick has written extensively on American music and musicians. His most recent book, "Sam Phillips: The Man Who Invented Rock 'n' Roll", was a New York Times

best-seller and a Washington Post Notable Non-Fiction pick for 2015. His other books include the prize-winning Elvis Presley two-part biography "Last Train to Memphis" and "Careless Love

Whether or not you are a country music fan, the title is intriguing enough to make you want to read this book. And once you do, you'll find it full of entertaining stories that are amusing, interesting, and at times sorrowful and thought provoking. Some of these stories you may have heard before, but many are told from conversations the author has had with his subjects and either aren't well known or known at all. And these stories are related in a "folksy" or conversational manner so that at times you may feel as though you are being spoken to directly. This book took me longer to read than I thought it would because as stories were being told about the artists and their songs and the stories behind some songs, I'd take time out to go back and listen to songs I hadn't heard in awhile or to discover songs I'd never listened to. So be prepared to want to grab your favorite device and go to your favorite streaming media service and (re-)discover some great music that Peter Cooper has chosen to write about. And that alone is reason enough to read this book.

Cleverly and humorously written, this guide to Nashville country singers of the past four-plus decades is a real pleasure. It is jam-packed with astute observations and personal stories that even the most devoted country fan may find fresh and revealing. Alas, there is no real theme here, and the book has the feel of a collection of disconnected, loose-leaf notebook sketched stories strung together to earn its book cover. The musicians Cooper loves all seem to have earned the reputation as "the best ever \_\_\_\_" while other major figures are ignored or only briefly mentioned; this is the work of an unapologetic fan. A musician in addition to writer and historian, the author's insights are often invaluable; I have returned to check his litany of the best steel guitarists several times since finishing the book. Cooper's prose is folksy, well suited to honky tonk story-telling, but the throw-away transitions are occasionally wince-worthy, too cute by half. (But don't worry, there is nary a passage throughout as awful as the title, Jack Clement-authored or not.) Overall, this is a fun, fast summer ride and an absolute must-read for any serious country devotee.

There are two kinds of people in this world; those who have read Peter Cooper's book "Johnny's Cash & Charley's Pride" and those who ought to read it. After reading the first two pages of the introductory chapter, I thought that it had already been worth the price of admission. Peter Cooper writes the stories of songwriters, musicians and those whose lives influenced those musical artists that are profiled in this book. By writing their stories, we learn the stories not only of these

individuals, both famous and not-so-famous, but the story of Country and Americana music. He tells the stories of the people and the music with a passion born of a love of country music and the people who helped make it an art form that has touched the souls of millions of people.. We can only be appreciative that a writer with his talent, skill and sensitivity has written a book that allows the reader to vicariously share his passion and his love of the people he writes about. The writing is as entertaining and it is informative. This book is on my Mt. Rushmore of books about music; not just Country/Americana music, but music period.

There was a very good article and interview with the author in No Depression magazine last week which provided a great taste of the flavor of this book and compelling reasons to buy it. I'm part way through reading it and it has a very lively cool writing style, fascinating stories and lots of insight. Recommended

Book came only yesterday. I read the first two chapters last night. Those two justified the purchase price. I can't wait to tear through this book. Thanks to Peter for a treasure!

Very informative and enjoyable book. History of Nashville, past and present famous performers and musicians on stage and off, and revealing events are well written too.

So much heart, so much humor and stories just beautifully told. Plus, when you scribble down every song you encounter from cover to cover, you get the best playlist you've ever made. Can't recommend Peter's book enough.

Great book to read -

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