



Annie Leibovitz: American Music

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As *Rolling Stone*’s chief photographer for over thirteen years, Leibovitz created a legendary body of work. Her portraits of some of the world’s most talented musicians capture more than the performer, they convey the art of making music. For **AMERICAN MUSIC**, Leibovitz traveled across the country to juke joints in the Mississippi Delta, honkytonks in Texas, and jazz clubs in New Orleans “to take pictures in places that mean something.” In her signature style, she shares stunning portraits of American greats -- **B.B. King, Willie Nelson, Bonnie Raitt, Bruce Springsteen, Beck, Bob Dylan, Mary J. Blige, Jon Bon Jovi, Steve Earle, Ryan Adams, Miles Davis, Etta James, Pete Seeger, Emmylou Harris, Tom Waits, The Dixie Chicks, Dr. Dre, The Roots** and many more.

AMERICAN MUSIC includes a commentary about the American Music project by Leibovitz, short essays by musicians **Patti Smith, Rosanne Cash, Steve Earle, Mos Def, Ryan Adams**, and **Beck** as well as biographical sketches of all the musicians.

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- Sales Rank: #314043 in Books
- Published on: 2003-10-28
- Released on: 2003-10-28
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 12.30" h x 1.25" w x 9.92" l, 4.35 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 264 pages



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

It looks like a gorgeous nostalgia trip to judge by the cover image alone. The photo is of an old school record player that lies unplugged, a white label test-pressing waiting on the turntable, while a band of paper wrapped around the cover announces the title in ye olde woodblock-looking type, *American Music*. A reading of the small type on the back cover reveals the image to be the very record and turntable left in Elvis Presley's bedroom the day he died, and the mind reels, thinking about whether the King listened to this record on that day or not, and who are the Stamps, anyway? An excellent selection of musician portraits interspersed with crumbly wooden juke joints and wide open fields in the South, *American Music* covers a wide gamut of jazz, blues, punk, country, hip-hop, rock and roll, folk and gospel musicians. And while most of the pictures were shot between 1999 and 2002, some go back to the early 1970s, when Leibovitz first became *Rolling Stone* magazine's chief photographer. Some of the artists are very well-known (Michael Stipe, Dolly Parton, Bob Dylan) and some of them are not (Jessie Mae Hemphill, Other Turner, Carlos Coy). Leibovitz really has a way of relaxing her performers, and this is a great part of her gift. Even when the pictures are so posed as to be ridiculous (like, what's Michael Stipe doing on that bedbug-ridden mattress—the guy's a billionaire?), she catches her subjects at their most "real." They are lost in their music, or just doing some "real person" thing (look, there is Beck in his car—does Beck really drive his own car?). The presentation may be a little hokey, but this book is sure to please most any music fan. --Mike McGonigal

Review

Praise for *American Music*

"[Leibovitz] explores more deeply than ever the landscape of America's sound, from a New Orleans funeral to a Baptist church to an empty juke joint."

—*Vanity Fair*

"Leibovitz's approach to both celebrity and non-celebrity musicians is remarkably consistent . . . [Her] conception of glamour is anything but aloof. She situates her subjects right there in front of you."

—*The New York Times*

From the Trade Paperback edition.

From the Inside Flap

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Users Review

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