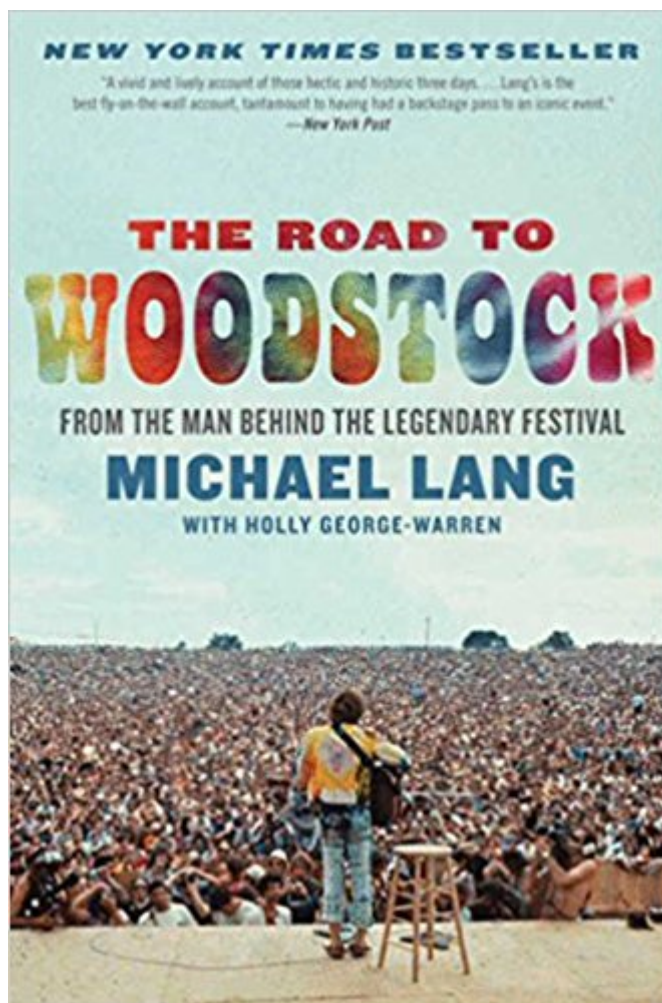


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The Road To Woodstock



Synopsis

“[A] vivid and lively account of those hectic and historic three days. The best fly-on-the-wall account, tantamount to having had a backstage pass to an iconic event.” —New York Post

The Woodstock music festival of 1969 is an American cultural touchstone, and no book captures the sights, sounds, and behind-the-scenes machinations of the historic gathering better than Michael Lang’s New York Times bestseller, *The Road to Woodstock*. USA Today calls this fascinating, entertaining, and blissfully nostalgic look back, “Invaluable.” In *The Road to Woodstock*, Michael Lang recaptures the magic for the generation that was there and for the generations that followed.

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Customer Reviews

For three days in August 1969, half a million music lovers happily braved torrential rains, endured lack of food and clean water, and grooved to the cosmic blues of the Grateful Dead and Janis Joplin, danced all night to the funky soul of Sly and the Family Stone and witnessed the birth of a new band called Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young. Held at Max Yasgur’s dairy farm in Bethel, N.Y., the first Aquarian Exposition, or the Woodstock Music & Art Fair, grew far beyond the expectations of its creators. In this lively memoir, Lang, one of the festival’s cocreators, retells the story—some of it already well-known—of the halting steps that he and his partners took to develop the greatest rock concert of all time. After a stint at NYU, Lang moved to Coconut Grove, where he opened a head shop and, with the help of some of his friends, organized Miami Pop in 1968, one of the first outdoor music festivals drawing major acts. Burned out on Miami, Lang

headed to Woodstock, N.Y., to settle into the bohemian community of artists and craftsmen, and opened a recording studio. With a storyteller's verve and energy, Lang regales us with the tales of struggles with smalltown political leaders who opposed the festival, the kindness of Max Yasgur and the gargantuan task of feeding and taking care of a community the size of a large city. With the gritty insights of the ultimate insider, Lang weaves interviews with performers and others into his memoir, providing a glimpse of the madness, frustration, happiness and sheer euphoria that turned Woodstock into a memorable music festival. (July) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“Lang, one of Woodstock’s organizers, provides details about how the production was put together and kept running. His account is interspersed with interviews with performers and others, including, perhaps most interestingly, Hugh Romney, aka Wavy Gravy, of the Hog Farm, whose group provided order, reassurance and, as we know, granola.” (New York Times Book Review, Paperback Row)

“At Woodstock I saw a collective adventure representing something that still holds true today. When the Berlin Wall came down, Woodstock was there. When Mandela was liberated, Woodstock was in there. When we celebrated the year 2000, Woodstock was in there. Woodstock is still every day.” (Carlos Santana)

“Reading this inimitable account of how Woodstock really came to pass makes the Manhattan Project seem like whippin’ up one of my mom’s custard pies....[This book] he and Holly George-Warren will knock you out and once again make you wish that you were there.” (Terry Stewart, President of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum)

“Totally rocking...what elevates this book above the level of most rock memoirs is the inclusion of voices other than Lang’s—including scenesters and key Woodstock players like Jimi Hendrix, Roger Daltrey, Pete Townshend, Jerry Garcia. Well-written, informative and tons of fun.” (Kirkus Reviews)

“Invaluable [Lang] wraps up his cinematic reminiscing by taking a seminal thread from Woodstock’s history—Jimi Hendrix’s breathtaking interpretation of The Star Spangled Banner—and linking its poignancy to what some have called the 21st century Woodstock moment: the day Barack Obama became the first black president.” (USA Today)

“The shelf of books about Woodstock is groaning, but Lang’s is the best fly-on-the-wall account, tantamount to having had a backstage pass to an iconic event.” (New York Post)

“There are plenty of juicy tidbits in ‘The Road to Woodstock,’ starting with the compelling opening of Lang sharing his backstage

view of Hendrix's sizzling performance at the rain-soaked end of the festival.
(Richmond Times-Dispatch)

This book provides a magnificent insight into how Woodstock 1969 came about. I found it thoroughly well written, vastly entertaining and entirely engaging. I've read numerous Woodstock books that chronicle the event through the eyes of those who attended the event. However, to read the story behind the scenes of Woodstock, from concept through fruition and beyond, from the point of view of one who was central to production is priceless. This is a story only Michael could tell with anecdotes skillfully interwoven from both production team members and performers, lending insight and clarity to how and why decisions were made. It was a hell of a ride, overcoming monstrous adversity at every turn. Clearly this was the festival destined to be. Additionally, and gratefully, this book includes photos of those providing anecdotes allowing the reader to put faces to names. I almost didn't purchase this book because of some of the negative reviews it received. Let me put it this way; if you want to hear the amazing tale of how Woodstock ultimately became the cultural phenomenon it was, from the man himself, then give it a chance.

Even though I was only ten years old, I remember well all the hype over Woodstock in the news media and the big Life Magazine article. I was far too young to even think about attending Woodstock, but at the time I was fascinated by the concept. It was interesting to find out all the prep it took to get this iconic music festival up and running. A TON of work and worry & financial juggling went into the planning of this event which almost fell apart at the 11th hour due to a needed change of venue. The Zoning issues alone, must have had the organizers pulling their (long) hair out. But WHAT an event it turned out to be for those who attended. And the music!!! and the groups who played there...amazingly talented. I found this book so interesting that as a result, I downloaded the over 2 hour documentary that was made at Woodstock. What a treat it was to hear and see Jimi Hendrix perform and Grace Slick and The Who, and especially Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young in their formative days. They were fantastic, even though I watched and listened to it all on my small screen Kindle. it was worth doing. This book is the perfect backdrop to let you know all that went on with set up, the event itself and even the post Woodstock fall-out. While Middle class, Middle American parents (like mine) were a little horrified by all the "pot heads" (as they called them) who attended Woodstock...I for one was amazed and a tad bit jealous that I was just too young to be a part of the counter-culture scene. Woodstock was like a window into that "Scene". The book tells the story very well.

I wasn't old enough to go to Woodstock; actually, I'm not even sure I really understood until much later what it really was. But of course, through the years since, I've seen the pictures, watched the movie, have the album and now the CD, and love all the music! Wow, what an amazing adventure it must have been to be there! I was old enough to become a fan of so many of the artists who had played there, and in just a few years, knew what it was about. But this book is so interesting; to see how it all came together, to get insights from the artists themselves, and to hear how the people who attended felt themselves. I've always said had I been old enough, I would have been there, but I know my parents who are no longer here would "roll" when I say that. Since this was the first music festival of its kind, it really was phenomenal, and although I've only started the book, I'm already pulled into the first ideas forming to create what would become Woodstock. Two other books were suggested by one reviewer to get the fullest picture, and I may look into getting one or both, after finishing this one. I probably should have waited to give stars when I finished the book, so you should read a few other reviews before making your decision. I've just gone through this one, and know I'll be pleased because for me, it will be a wealth of information. (There are also several pictures included, too.). Just as aside: I purchased the "Bonnaroo" book at the same time, and since I am from Tennessee, I can't believe after reading it, that I've never gone. My daughter has gone a few times, but doesn't enjoy camping out and the heat, and has passed on it the past couple of years. But after reading this year's lineup, I would go in a flash if I had someone to go with, and I do have some friends my own age who are attending. They take a RV, which is the only way to go at my age! The reason I brought this up is because Neil Young is to have said about Bonnaroo, "If Woodstock were like Bonnaroo today--food and beverage stands everywhere, showers, toilets, guards directing traffic, etc., we would still be there!"

This is an excellent book on Woodstock Festival by the person behind planning the event. It is well written and authoritative. It is a fun read. I feel that this is an essential book for understanding Woodstock Festival. The book is text to speech enabled so you can listen to the book or read the book or both. The book is a great value too. This is an excellent exciting book about one of the most memorable events in popular music in the 1960s. I recommend this book without qualifications.

Eldon Edwards

I was at Woodstock & actually remembered some of it. This book filled in some of the missing parts. It was a fun and easy read. I liked that Lang often tells the story from the point of view of others. A

lot of great behind the scenes information. I learned why some bands sounded bad & why Iron Butterfly didn't show up. I would have liked even more reports from festival attendees & more about Woodstock 94 & 99. This book brought back memories & had me reliving the great vibes of the event. It was a real fun time reading the book. Well written & worth the price.

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