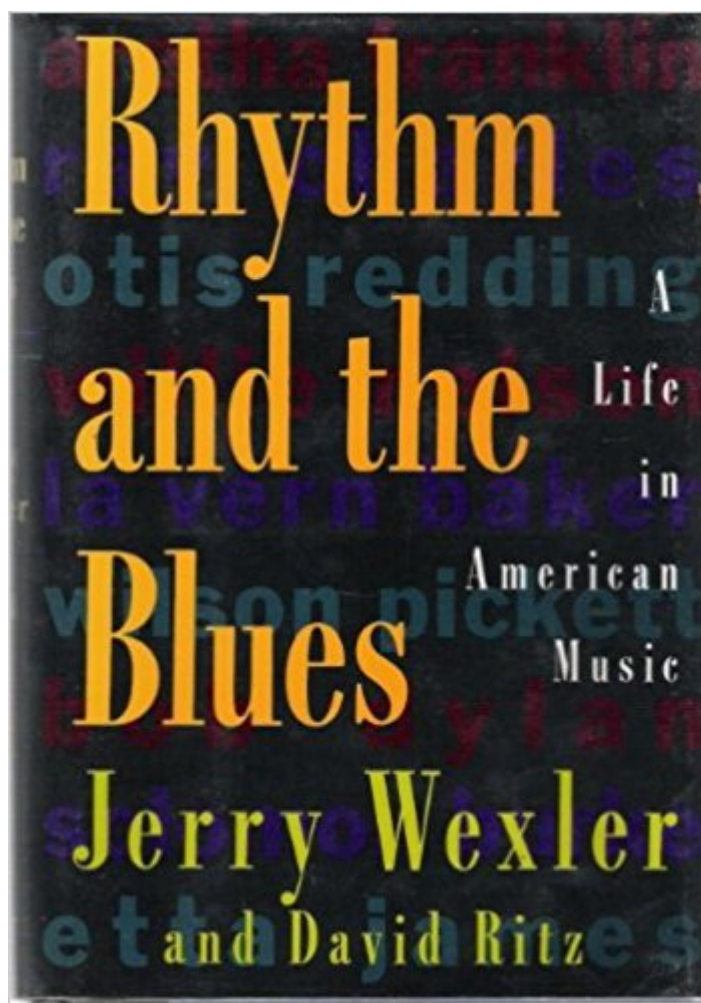


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# Rhythm And The Blues: A Life In American Music



## Synopsis

The record producer describes his role presiding over the evolution in the modern music business, discussing his childhood and his work with Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, Otis Redding, Bob Dylan, and other artists. 15,000 first printing. First serial Rolling Stone.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Veteran record producer Wexler, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member who coined the term "rhythm and blues," spent the Depression as an adolescent in the Washington Heights section of New York City, hanging out in pool halls, hunting for rare records, hungering for excitement. Wexler took journalism courses at a college in Kansas but spent years as a window washer in Manhattan. After a stint in the wartime Army, he joined the staff of Billboard. In 1952 he became a partner in Ahmed Ertegun's Atlantic Records, recording such jazz, blues and folk greats as Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles, Solomon Burke, Joe Turner, Betty Carter, the Drifters, Etta James and Bob Dylan. This spirited memoir, written with freelancer Ritz, crackles with career highlights and swings breezily through five decades of record-making, focusing especially on the 1950s and 1960s. Readers will enjoy accounts of Wexler's seminal encounters with gifted musicians, but they may wish for deeper development of this hip-merchant's life story. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Any fan of American popular music over the last four decades has heard the work of Jerry Wexler.

As producer for such artists as Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, Bob Dylan, and Dire Straits, Wexler never pandered to the latest craze in the music business but crafted adult-oriented records that sound as current today as they did when they were recorded. While anything but humble, Wexler does not gloss over his shortcomings. Bad business deals, personal feuds, and a troubled family life receive as much attention as his phenomenal success as producer and co-owner of Atlantic Records. The forces behind his love of music and will to succeed are vividly outlined in the section on his early years as a pot-smoking jazz hound in Depression-era New York. This lively book succeeds on many levels and belongs in every library where there is an interest in popular culture.- Dan Bogey, Clearfield Cty. P.L. Federation, Curwensville, Pa. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I have read a zillion music biz books but this Jerry Wexler (Atlantic Records partner) story goes to top of the list. Never have I been sent to the kindle dictionary more; the writing style is "off the charts" entertaining. Described in the forward as "a holy terror...his rapid fire speech blends a promoters hype with a scholars precision, his lexicon a mixture of the mean streets and graduate library." Truly incredible story. It feels as if Jerry actually wrote this. His voice brilliantly captured. His honesty is refreshing. His contribution to Atlantic Records and American music nearly unmatched. As good a read as I ever experienced. Bravo. 5 Stars!!

Very informative and well written.

I simply loved this book, the best music bio I've ever read. If you like to know all about the music, where the songs came from, who the sidemen were, how the music was produced, you will enjoy this. Much better than the BB King/Ritz collaboration, which, while enjoyable, doesn't hold a candle to this effort. I usually pass books along when I'm through with them, but this will stay on my shelf!

This is a great book. Looking at the recordings that have been done at many of the Southern Recording studios, Wex's name keeps popping up, along with Atlantic Records, Erteguns, & Tommy Dowd. Wonderful book - Full of Musical meanderings. A welcome addition to my Library. I bought this a while back and am currently Re reading it at this time. It's like an old friend.

well well well, Alex would certainly say...before he starts kicking asses...

A man with many accomplishments who refuses to let them speak for themselves. Way too full of himself for my taste.

Wexler produced so much great music I love listening to, and his autobiography was surprisingly literate and quite fascinating.

I bought this book for my son-in-law for Christmas. He was thrilled with it. He also had asked for it. I looked through the book and thought it was pretty cool myself. He was also thrilled that it was a first edition. A happy guy for sure. Thank you.

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