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[Review of] Gigging: The Musician's Underground Touring Directory

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1303. Dorf, Michael Ethan, and Robert Appel, eds. **Gigging: The Musician's Underground Touring Directory**. Cincinnati, Ohio, Writer's Digest Books, 1989. 191p. index. \$14.95pa. ML17.G53. 781.64'023'73. LC 89-16658. ISBN 0-89879-356-4.

Dorf and Appel (manager and guitarist, respectively, for the band Swamp Thing) have put together this edition of contacts for alternative musicians (the earlier edition was published by Flaming Pie Records in 1986, under the title *A Guide to Gigging in North America*). The focus is again North America, with the great majority of contacts in the United States. The entries are arranged by broad geographic area (e.g., the West, the Deep South [including Kentucky!]), and thereunder by state and city. Over 2,000 listings include clubs, bars, radio stations, record stores, and press that are willing to work with unknown and progressive performers. Coverage is far from complete, however. As an example, for Lexington, Kentucky, only one of two primary alternative record stores is mentioned, and none of the several bars and venues that feature progressive or alternative music are listed. Introductory essays give some little guidance concerning setting up performances, getting paid, finding accommodations on the road, and how record companies work. There is also a listing of record labels, including a good selection of independent ones. A city index and brief bibliography complete the work.

These particular types of clubs tend to change names or go out of business often, so the guide will become dated quickly. Its lack of comprehensiveness may mislead users. Nonetheless, it is a useful starting point for the other Swamp Things of the world who are ready to hit the road. — **Robert Aken**