[Review of] Soul Music A-Z

Robert A. Aken

University of Kentucky, robaken@uky.edu

Click here to let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: https://uknowledge.uky.edu/libraries_facpub

Part of the Collection Development and Management Commons, and the Music Commons

Repository Citation
https://uknowledge.uky.edu/libraries_facpub/151

This Review is brought to you for free and open access by the University of Kentucky Libraries at UKnowledge. It has been accepted for inclusion in Library Faculty and Staff Publications by an authorized administrator of UKnowledge. For more information, please contact UKnowledge@lsv.uky.edu.
[Review of] Soul Music A-Z

Notes/Citation Information
Published in CHOICE, v. 30, no. 2, 30-0644.

Reprinted with permission from CHOICE http://www.cro3.org, copyright by the American Library Association.

Digital Object Identifier (DOI)
http://dx.doi.org/10.5860/CHOICE.30-0644

Gregory (writer and researcher for a British film company) has compiled this biographical guide to soul personalities, primarily performers but also producers, label owners, and writers. Although he defines soul in a broad sense (excluding rap and hip hop but including such names as Van Morrison, Robert Palmer, and Delbert McClinton), Gregory stays essentially true to covering those whose music and style reflect a blend of rhythm and blues and gospel. The more than 600 alphabetically arranged entries include brief biographical sketches (averaging 300–500 words) that include songs that made the charts (with UK and US top listings and date), and selective discographies. Irwin Stambler's *Encyclopedia of Pop, Rock, and Soul* (rev. ed., 1989; 1st ed., CH, May’75) lists 120 figures in common with Gregory (the major names one would expect, including Marvin Gaye, James Brown, Al Green, and Sam Cooke) with longer entries. Gregory's work suffers from typos, comma splices, run-ons, and other evidence of sloppy editing—e.g., "Pittsburg, Philadelphia" for "Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania" (p. 60)—but he does provide basic biographical information on a number of lesser-known soul music figures and groups, e.g., Al Bell (head of promotion at Stax), Chairmen of the Board, and Teddy Riley. Stambler does not cover songwriters; Gregory lists Holland and Dozier as well as Goffen and King. This work will prove a useful starting point for those interested in pursuing the personalities of this very influential aspect of popular music.

--R. A. Aken, University of Kentucky

Copyright 1992 American Library Association