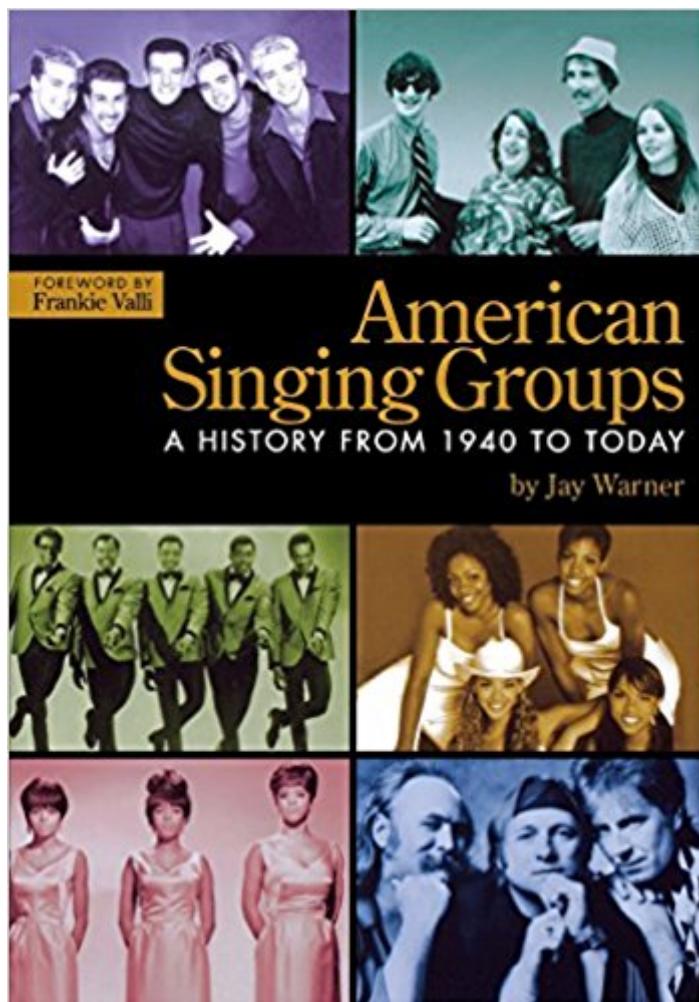


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# American Singing Groups: A History, From 1940 To Today



## **Synopsis**

American Singing Groups: A History 1940 to Today is the definitive history of pop vocal groups, encompassing the doo-wop of Dion & the Belmonts, the Motown hits of the Supremes, the surf sound of the Beach Boys, country-rock of Crosby, Stills & Nash, and the slick pop sounds of 'N Sync. Each entry details the group's career, key members, and its influences. With extensive discographies and rare photos, this one-of-a-kind entertaining reference is filled with musical facts that will fascinate fans and collectors. Updated and freshly revised, American Singing Groups also chronicles the revival of the pop groups in the nineties and the new millennium. This is an essential and comprehensive guide to an evolving and ever-popular art form. New bands in this revision include Backstreet Boys, 'N Sync, Destiny's Child and many more.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Ever wonder what tracks were on the A side of 'The Clovers' records in 1961? Well now you can find out! Jay Warner has amassed biographical and musical information for hundreds of singing groups from the 1940s to today. Some pretty detailed histories. These are pop/harmonizing groups, hence fewer entries for later decades. Warner has them categorized by decade for easy reference. There are pictures at the start of each chapter, and a listing of the Vocal Group Hall of Fame inductees. And remember - these are AMERICAN singing groups. Just when I was freaking out that ABBA wasn't included, I remembered. So enjoy!

As previous reviews have stated, "This book is excellent!" For the price you cannot beat it. Bear in mind that all the groups are American and consist of 3 or more in a group so you won't find English, or other countries, or individual singers such as Ricky Nelson, etc., but it's fantastic for the groups defined. It's almost like reading a history book on those years and the groups/individuals involved. I would have never believed how much some singers migrated from one group to another or how many times they changed their names and other amusing historical facts. If you're like me, I never knew that the "Four Lovers" became the "Four Seasons." You'll laugh and smile when with some of the stories, such as "The Prisonaires." This group was harmonizing in prison and the warden encouraged them to make a record. He permitted, under guard, to go out and cut a record that became popular. Then they even then played at different night clubs (under guard supervision) some evenings. Does it have every American group that cut a record? Probably not, but this book has more than I ever heard of. This is a must book and I'm amazed the price of this book is so reasonable. You cannot go wrong. If you want to have some fun, select a few songs listed in the book you've never heard of and check them out on YouTube. The odds are you'll find some of them . . . I even found one by the Prisonaires . . . Just Walking In The Rain - 1953.

Do you remember Sonny Til and the Orioles? They were the founding fathers of rhythm and blues. Well, what about the El Dorados (named after Cadillac's hottest car)? The Soul Stirrers? They were largely responsible for the development of modern soul music. To summarize the above questions, you can't imagine how many groups are profiled. The book is organized into decades: 40's, 50's, 60's, etc. Obviously the book can't contain all the groups there ever were, far too many groups form, do little except some local gigs and fade away. But it certainly does include a bunch. So many, with so much information about each one, that you have to wonder how all this information was collected. Certainly Mr. Warner couldn't have known all these people. Or could he? Note that this book is on American Singing Groups. You won't find the Beatles here.

Very late review... I bought this for my husband for Christmas. He has a jukebox filled with 45s mostly from the 50s, and he changes records every 3 months. He has read everything in this book and enjoyed it immensely. He said that the author really did his research on all the artists. It was the best book I ever bought him.

If you're into Vocal Groups.....This Book is a Must.....It is one of the most visual and

comprehensively well written books of its kind. LES LEVINE

This book is unique in that it's an extremely informative and interesting history of our American vocal group music. Anyone who is the least bit curious as how American vocal groups evolved over the decades would be fascinated. It is an encyclopedia of the genre. If one has a favorite singing group (not bands) there's a good chance that their history is included. Being a tremendous fan and appreciator of vocal groups led me to this book. I have used it as a reference guide and have become quite educated about the history of my favorite groups of which I have many. I've been buying group harmony records since the fifties and have always been fascinated about the origins of the groups on those records and of the prior decade that led up to that (the forties). Obviously, I recommend it highly to people like myself who have cherished the songs and the groups that sang them. I acquired the first edition years ago (read it from cover to cover) and was very upset that I misplaced it...I got tired of looking for it so I just bought it again and am very happy that I did.

Thanks Jay Warner!!

Good reference book for anyone interested in group bios. It focuses on some of the more obscure groups. It's pretty in-depth. I have a music blog and use it for reference all the time. If you're a fan of singing groups from the 40's to the 90's this is a good book for you.

vocal groups have always been part of the music listening process and this book is a strong overview and that so much more with tidbits and information and a great amount of background to tell the stories featured here. I really enjoyed and this book is a cool read. I enjoyed it a whole lot.

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