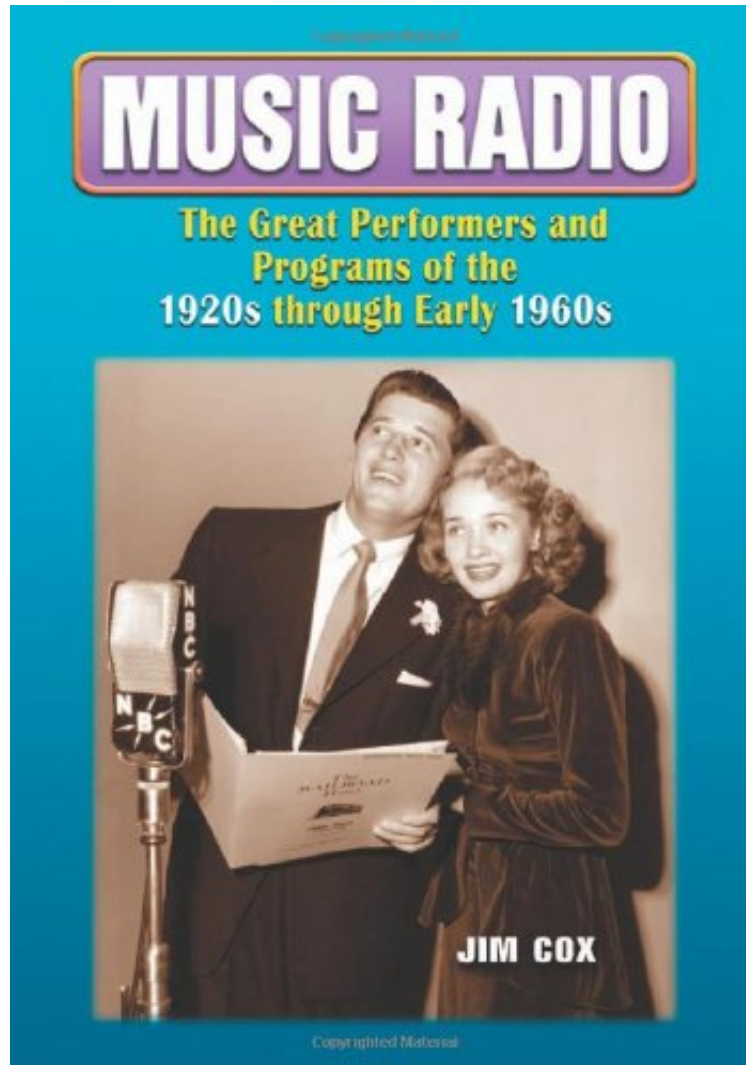


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## Music Radio: The Great Performers and Programs of the 1920s through Early 1960s

Jim Cox

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**Jim Cox : Music Radio: The Great Performers and Programs of the 1920s through Early 1960s** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Music Radio: The Great Performers and Programs of the 1920s through Early 1960s:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An Aspect of Old-Time Radio Finally Well-Covered By OTR Researcher Music Radio: The Great Performers and Programs of the 1920s through Early 1960s By Jim Cox Radio brought live entertainment into American homes; not only dramas and comedies, but also live music programs were beamed across the air waves during the Golden Age of Radio. Because of Radio, listeners could hear live music of

every genre without ever leaving their homes. Therefore, it is somewhat surprising that only a relatively few overview books have been written about the music programs of Radio's Golden Age. Old-Time Radio authority and author Jim Cox has helped rectify this oversight with the publication of *MUSIC RADIO: The Great Performers and Programs of the 1920s through Early 1960s*. In doing so, he has significantly increased our knowledge of broadcast music. *MUSIC RADIO* covers the entire gamut of radio musical programming starting in the 1920s and continuing through the early 1960s. Classical, operatic, big band, jazz, country, western, gospel, sacred, pop, and semi-classical music forms are explored in the entertaining and informative style that is a trademark of Jim Cox volumes on American Old-Time Radio. Jim has written comprehensive essays on ten major musical programs: The Bell Telephone Hour, The Bing Crosby Show, The Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin Street, Cities Service Concerts, The Fred Waring Show, Grand Ole Opry, The Kate Smith Show, The Railroad Hour, The Voice of Firestone, and Your Hit Parade. The treatment of each of these series includes considerable information on performers, writers, production personnel, sponsors, ratings, dates on the air, and time slots. Additionally, he has provided chapters on The Big Bands, The Classics, The Contests, The Disc Jockeys, The Hummert Musicales, The Horse Operas, The House Bands, The Sacred Singers, and The Vocalists. These chapters provide significant insight into the origins and development of these music genres on the radio air waves. Also included is extensive information on many radio series in these various genres. Throughout his book, the author provides extensive biographical and program credits information on more than 125 prominent performers and groups, conductors, producers, announcers, hosts, and disk jockeys from the Golden Age of Radio Broadcast Music. For example, The Vocalists chapter includes information on the signature and hits tunes, career highlights, and radio programs of The Andrews Sisters, Jack Berch, Eddie Cantor, Rosemary Clooney, Perry Como, Bob Crosby, Morton Downey, Eddie Fisher, Jane Froman, The Happiness Boys, Dick Haymes, Al Jolson, Peggy Lee, Curt Massey, Vaughn Monroe, Jane Pickens, Lanny Ross, Ginny Simms, Jack Smith, Jo Stafford, Mel Torme, Arthur Tracey, and Rudy Vallee. Jim Cox is one of the most productive writers on the Golden Age of Radio. He has written entertainingly and authoritatively about Radio soap operas, audience participation shows, detective and police shows, the programs of Frank and Anne Hummert, and the final decade of the Golden Age of Radio. With his new book, *MUSIC RADIO*, Jim has added much to our knowledge of this important segment of Old-Time Radio. *MUSIC RADIO* is a book well worth adding to your Old-Time Radio library.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Documents the presence and importance of musical programming through all the genres and station focuses. By Midwest Book Review Before the invention of 'talk radio' music was the cornerstone of radio programming - and Jim Cox's *Music Radio: The Great Performers And Programs Of The 1920s Through Early 1960s* documents the presence and importance of musical programming through all the genres and station focuses. Major series as well as artists are explored in detail, with many less-popular shows and performers included. Sections cover the classics, the disc jockeys who played the music and chose the sound, house bands, sacred singers, and much more. Each section provides a detailed historical overview, mention of major influences and personalities, and insights into music evolution from and influence on radio shows.

Long before the invention of "talk radio," music was the heart and soul of radio programming--whether standing alone, filling in the time between features, or identifying to widespread audiences the shows coming on and signing off the air. Jim Cox's *Music Radio* encompasses the entire range of musical programming from the early 1920s to the early 1960s. Jazz, country, classical, gospel, pop, big band, western, and semi-classical forms are covered, as are the vocalists, instrumentalists and disc jockeys who made them available to listeners. Virtually all the major series and artists are explored in depth, and lesser known shows and performers are touched on as well. Some of the series included are The Bing Crosby Show, The Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin Street, The Fred Waring Show, Grand Ole Opry, The Bell Telephone Hour, The Cities Service Concerts, Your Hit Parade, The Kate Smith Show, The Railroad Hour, and The Voice of Firestone.

"detailed historical overview" --Midwest Book About the Author Jim Cox, a leading historian of radio programming, is an award-winning author of numerous books about old time radio. A retired college professor, he lives in Louisville, Kentucky.