



Souled American: How Black Music Transformed White Culture

Kevin Phinney

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From Jim Crow to Eminem, white culture has been transformed by black music. To be so influenced by the boundless imagination of a race brought to America in chains sets up a fascinating irony, and **Souled American**, an ambitious and comprehensive look at race relations as seen through the prism of music, examines that irony fearlessly—with illuminating results. Tracing a direct line from plantation field hollers to gangsta rap, author Kevin Phinney explains how blacks and whites exist in a constant tug-of-war as they create, re-create, and claim each phase of popular music. Meticulously researched, the book includes dozens of exclusive celebrity interviews that reveal the day-to-day struggles and triumphs of sharing the limelight. Unique, intriguing, **Souled American** should be required reading for every American interested in music, in history, or in healing our country's troubled race relations.

- Combines social history and pop culture to reveal how jazz, blues, soul, country, and hip-hop have developed
- Includes interviews with Ray Charles, Willie Nelson, B. B. King, David Byrne, Sly Stone, Donna Summer, Bonnie Raitt, and dozens more
- Confronts questions of race and finds meaningful answers
- Ideal for Black History Month

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