



Doo Wop: The Music, the Times, the Era

By Bruce Morrow, Rich Maloof



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Much like Sterling's *New York Times* bestseller *Hippie*, *Doo Wop* captures the spirit of an era in spectacular visuals, revealing the roots of the 60's music explosion. With abundant background and enticing images, it covers way more than just the gorgeous harmonies of the unforgettable doo wop groups. The 50's were rich in cultural events and iconic performances, and this landmark volume traces the development of the music, politics, art, architecture, and popular culture throughout this exciting and remarkable period. Each chapter delves into one or more years and focuses on the transformative events of the day. You'll meet the pioneers who started it all, including bands like The Drifters; discover how the songs we love emerged from African rhythms and culture; see Marlon Brando roar in to transform squeaky-clean youth in *The Wild One*; look at the 50's sex symbols, like Bardot and Monroe; and watch the music—and America—grow up. The pages teem with archival photography, posters, album covers, newspaper articles, magazine covers, lyrics, and more. Lavish illustrations with duotone and full-color imagery carry readers back in time so they'll enjoy a deep understanding of our musical and cultural history.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

When it comes to doo wop, a pop music style Morrow describes as vocal harmony + rock 'n' roll, the legendary DJ leaves no stone unturned as he traces the music back to its roots in early African-American slave songs. From there, he follows doo wop from its birth and its heyday in the '50s to its decline in the late '60s. As Morrow outlines the specific era of doo wop, he also gives sidebars on the groups—from superstars like the Platters to one-hit wonders like the Chords—that made it big during those years. As would be expected from a man who made his living behind the mike, Morrow displays a comfortable, conversational writing style that works well in this picture-heavy format (e.g., he writes of the romantic appeal of drive-ins: Funny how their popularity coincided with the Baby Boom, huh?). While the music history is the driving force behind this coffee-table tome, it's the cultural asides on topics as diverse as the era's people (Marilyn Monroe, Edward R. Murrow), places (diners, the Automat), sports (Jackie Robinson), politics (the red scare, JFK), kitsch (T-Birds, TV dinners) and entertainment (*I Love Lucy*, *The Wild Ones*) that will take readers back to America's golden age. (Nov.)

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About the Author

Bruce Morrow, a.k.a. "Cousin Brucie" has worked in the New York radio industry since the late fifties and had the distinction of introducing the Beatles during their historic Shea Stadium concert. He also appeared in the motion picture *Dirty Dancing* and his autobiography, *Cousin Brucie: My Life in Rock 'N' Roll Radio*, was a best seller.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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