

Who Did It First?: Great Rock and Roll Cover Songs and Their Original Artists

Bob Leszczak

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*Great Rock and Roll
COVER SONGS
and Their Original Artists*



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Bob Leszczak : Who Did It First?: Great Rock and Roll Cover Songs and Their Original Artists before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Who Did It First?: Great Rock and Roll Cover Songs and Their Original Artists:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Mostly great info but not very well writtenBy David AckermanIt's certainly filled with great information. That said, the author needed a proof reader. There were many misspellings and

repetitive phrases (like using the word 'wee' to describe slower, faster, etc.) There is also some wrong crediting. Perhaps he should have consulted BMI and/or the record labels for some of it. It's still worth it; he's just not a great writer...more of a researcher. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Kent McCombs Great item, nice book series idea - thanks, enjoying each. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Rock and Roll Song Trivia! By Mike O'Connor Bob Leszczak's WHO DID IT FIRST? GREAT ROCK AND ROLL COVER SONGS AND THEIR ORIGINAL ARTISTS is the third - and concluding - volume in Leszczak's three volume WHO DID IT FIRST series. (The first two volumes covered Rhythm and Blues and Pop cover songs). Like the others in the series, this 2014 Rowman Littlefield release details classic songs that readers have "grown up with, danced with and romanced with." Volume 3 offers up the back-story on over 400 songs ranging from ABRACADABRA to YOU'VE GOT TO HIDE YOUR LOVE AWAY. Among the chestnuts covered are ALL MY LOVING, RIDERS ON THE STORM, BAD MOON RISING, HAZY SHADE OF WINTER, THAT'LL BE THE DAY, YOU GIVE LOVE A BAD NAME, DRAGGIN' THE LINE, LIMBO ROCK, YELLOW RIVER, AMERICAN WOMAN, JAILHOUSE ROCK, STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN, IN THE AIR TONIGHT and LA BAMBA. Each song rates a write-up generally averaging a half-page. Details are given on composer, original artist, label, release year, cover artist that had the most chart success with their remake, etc; followed a a two- to four-paragraph summary of the song's history. The text is illustrated with photographs of 45s, artists, record jackets, etc. Volume 3 makes for fun and educational reading. I wondered about certain titles that weren't featured but maybe they're in the RHYTHM AND BLUES COVER SONGS volume. In any case, rock and roll trivia buffs should enjoy Leszczak's book. Recommended.

Everybody has to start somewhere. Businessmen start on the ground floor and try to work their way up the corporate ladder. Baseball players bide their time in the minor leagues wishing for an opportunity to move up and play in the majors. Musical compositions aren't very different some songs just don't climb the charts the first time they're recorded. However, with perseverance, the ideal singer, the right chemistry, impeccable timing, vigorous promotion, and a little luck, these songs can become very famous. So writes Bob Leszczak in the opening pages of Who Did It First?: Great Rock and Roll Cover Songs and Their Original Artists. In this third and final volume to the Who Did It First? series, readers explore the hidden history of the most famous, indeed legendary, rock songs and standards. Did you know that the Wild Ones had a Wild Thing before the Troggs? Were you aware that it took a second shot for Double Shot of My Baby's Love to make the charts? Had you heard that Guy Villari and the Regents dated Barbara Ann five years before the Beach Boys? Were you privy to the fact that there was Hanky Panky going on with Ellie Greenwich and the Raindrops, as well as the Summits, before Tommy James and the Shondells made the song a number 1 classic? Some of the information contained within these pages will shock, rattle and roll you. You may fancy yourself a music expert, but this third and last in a series of titles devoted to the story of great songs and their revival as great covers is filled with eye openers. In many instances, one's eyes will open even wider as a result of the list of cover artists (with Paul Anka's remake of Nirvana's Smells Like Teen Spirit leading the pack). Who Did It First? Great Rock and Roll Cover Songs and Their Original Artists is the perfect playlist builder. So whether quizzing friends at a party, answering a radio station contest, or just satisfying an insatiable curiosity to know who really did do it first, this work is a must-have.

As in the other books, it is easy to find a familiar song just browsing between the covers. What is often surprising, however, is the realization that the hit song you grew up with was minor compared to an earlier hit. Sometimes the situation is reversed the massive radio hit you grew up with would never have been possible without the relatively obscure, original unsung recording to inspire it. This book provides good examples of both situations, as well as various other twists and turns in the life cycles of famous rock songs. . . . This compact hardcover includes also a simple navigational list of songs, a list of illustrations, an integrated index, and a convenient appendix listing select artists heavily referenced in cover songs. . . . Its usefulness to students of popular culture and music will make this reference book an easy addition to any library. (American Reference Books Annual) Significantly, Who Did it First? never presents itself as something it is not (say, a scholarly work), and its tone is designed for a casual reader, not a trainspotting boffin who can't help but play gotcha! when reading it. Who Did it First? is a lightweight, fun and informative trip through rock's history. (Musoscribe) [Who Did It First: Great Rock and Roll Cover Songs and Their Original Artists, Who Did It First: Great Pop Cover Songs and Their Original Artists, Who Did It First: Great Rhythm and Blues Cover Songs and Their Original Artists] are well organized, and everything is readily accessible. . . . [T]hese are outstanding books from which any lover of popular music, from the neophyte to the most advanced, will gain much knowledge and enjoyment. (Journal of American Culture) About the Author Bob Leszczak, author of Single Season Sitcoms, 1948-1979: A Complete Guide (2012), was also the writer and producer of Solid Gold Scrapbook, a weekly five-hour music trivia radio show for the United Stations Radio Network. A former member of the Duprees, he's been an oldies radio on-air personality for over 30 years and has shared his passion for and knowledge about these classic hit songs and artists on great radio stations in Washington, DC, Boston, Denver, Tampa, Hartford, and Orlando. He is the author of Who Did It First? Great Rhythm and Blues Cover Songs and Their Original Artists (2013) and

Who Did It First? Great Pop Cover Songs and Their Original Artists (2014).