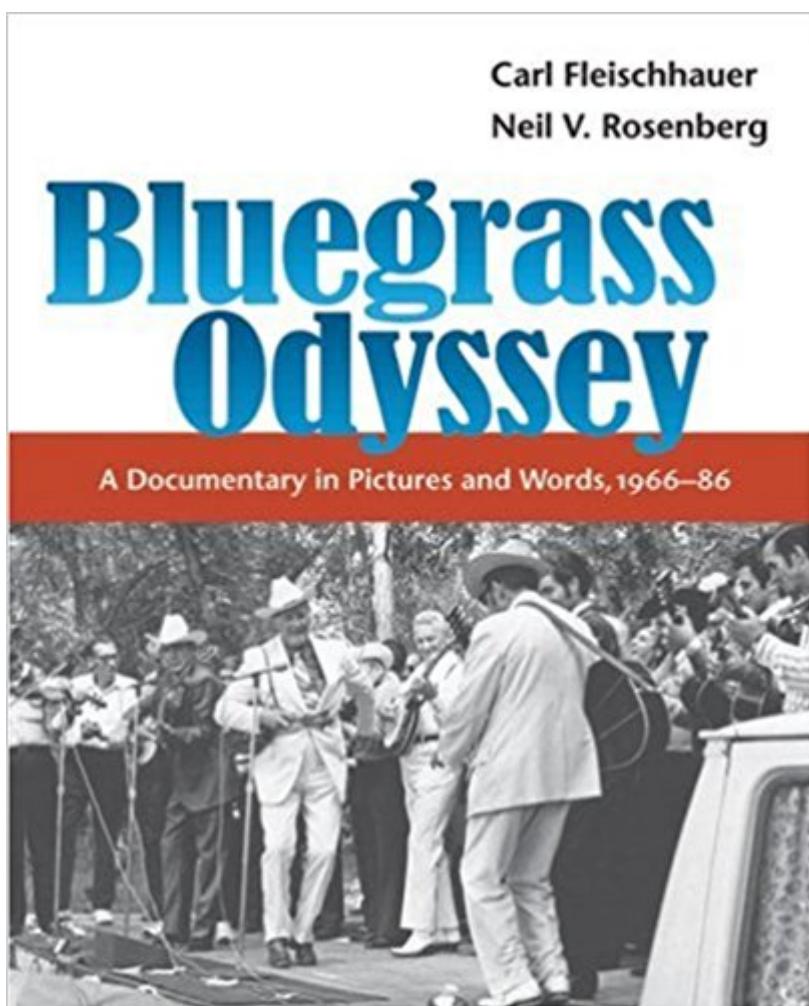


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# Bluegrass Odyssey: A Documentary In Pictures And Words, 1966-86 (Music In American Life)



## Synopsis

The fruit of four decades of collaboration between bluegrass music's premier photographer and premier historian, *Bluegrass Odyssey* is a satisfying and visually alluring journey into the heart of a genuinely American music. Combining Neil V. Rosenberg's commentary with more than two hundred of Carl Fleischhauer's matchless photographs, this elegant visual documentary captures the music making, the culture and community that foster it, and "the places where bluegrass is at home." Fleischhauer's striking photographs take the reader to the festival stages, taverns, grassy hillsides, country music halls, upscale clubs, barbershops, hillbilly storefront bars, and parking-lot jam sessions where bluegrass thrives. Inviting us in to the process of creating and celebrating this exuberant art form, his images offer an authentic and direct vision of the bluegrass community, including fans, instrument dealers, disc jockeys, and revered performers. In addition to wide-angle photographs that document the places in which bluegrass and its people are found, Fleischhauer offers arresting performance portraits of musicians such as Bill Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys, Lester Flatt, Earl Scruggs, Ralph Stanley, Ricky Skaggs, the Lewis and Stoneman families, the New Grass Revival, J. D. Crowe and the Kentucky Mountain Boys, the Dillards, and dozens of others. Rosenberg's narrative explores the dynamics of bluegrass performance, from the practice of "ganging around the mike," as bands bring one musical strand after another to the fore, to the tight harmonies and intricate exchanges as players respond to each other's musical ideas. Noting the blend of influences that have shaped bluegrass-ranging from rural and small-town "preachin' and prayin'" to an assembly-line precision and coordination that reflect the factories and offices to which many rural southerners migrated-Rosenberg traces the genre's emergence as a fully realized musical culture deeply rooted in community and family.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Salutes the values that a tradition has held dear: passion, community, family, and the craft of storytelling. -- Doubletake Magazine Striking photographs. . . . Covers many aspects of the music's culture. . . . Chock-full of photos capturing the first decade of the festival movement. -- Richard Harrington, Washington Post

Wonderful photos of the greats of bluegrass.

This book arrived in a reasonable amount of time and was packaged well so that it arrived in great condition. I was very happy with the service.

I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the history of bluegrass music. Carl Fleischhauer's photographs are worth the cost of the book alone. He has stunning black and white photos of early concerts featuring some of the greatest bluegrass musicians to grace the stage. He also has terrific backstage shots, photos of parking lot pickings, and nostalgic images, such as Uncle Pen's fiddle. These photos portray fascinating facets of bluegrass music's history. Neil Rosenberg's writing complements and enhances these images. His writing provides sufficient information to answer significant questions raised in looking at Fleischhauer's photographs. As a special treat, the book includes a fine photo memorial and essay to Bill Monroe. This book is an excellent record of the early history of bluegrass, and it vividly portrays images that ring true today.

This book blends a photo essay with a well written history of early years of bluegrass music. Neil Rosenberg has performed bluegrass music for years, and his compelling writing thoroughly documents the genre's history. Carl Fleischhauer photographs folk culture with a terrific eye for ways in which music is situated with communities. There are vivid portraits of stellar bluegrass musicians and beautiful pictures of classic bluegrass venues during this formative time period. It is especially interesting to see bluegrass music's "look" from 1967-1986 still remains a presence within the contemporary bluegrass music scene.

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