

Merle Haggard: The Running Kind - American Music Series



Merle Haggard: The Running Kind (American Music Series) by David Cantwell

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

- Language : English
- File size : 1222 KB
- Text-to-Speech : Enabled
- Screen Reader : Supported
- Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
- Word Wise : Enabled
- Print length : 297 pages

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Merle Haggard was one of the most influential and successful country music singers of all time. He was known for his distinctive voice, his prolific songwriting, and his rebellious spirit. Haggard's songs often explored themes of love, loss, and redemption, and he was a master at capturing the struggles and triumphs of everyday people.

Haggard was born in 1937 in Oildale, California. He grew up in poverty and began singing and playing guitar at a young age. He dropped out of school and joined the Navy, but was later discharged after going AWOL. Haggard then embarked on a life of crime and was in and out of jail for several years.

In 1960, Haggard was released from prison and began to focus on his music career. He signed with Capitol Records and released his debut album, *Sing Me Back Home*, in 1962. The album was a commercial success and helped to launch Haggard's career.

Over the next several years, Haggard released a string of hit singles, including "Swinging Doors," "The Bottle Let Me Down," and "Sing Me a Sad Song."

Haggard's music was often autobiographical, and he drew on his own experiences to write his songs. He wrote about the struggles of working-class people, the pain of heartbreak, and the redemption that can be found in love.

Haggard was also a political activist, and his songs often reflected his views on social issues. He was a strong supporter of the Vietnam War and wrote songs that celebrated the American military.

In the 1970s, Haggard's career began to decline. He struggled with drug addiction and alcohol abuse, and his personal life was in shambles. In 1978, he was arrested for possession of cocaine and was sentenced to prison.

Haggard served three years in prison and was released in 1981. He returned to his music career and released several successful albums in the 1980s and 1990s. In 1994, he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Merle Haggard died in 2016 at the age of 79. He left behind a legacy of music that continues to inspire and entertain people around the world.

Legacy

Merle Haggard was one of the most influential country music singers of all time. His music has had a lasting impact on the genre and has helped to shape the sound of country music today. Haggard's songs are known for their honesty, their emotional depth, and their beautiful melodies.

Haggard was also a pioneer in the Bakersfield Sound, a style of country music that is characterized by its twangy guitars and its emphasis on storytelling. Haggard's music was often inspired by his own experiences, and he wrote songs about the struggles and triumphs of everyday people. His songs resonated with millions of Americans who saw themselves in his characters.

Haggard was also a political activist, and his songs often reflected his views on social issues. He was a strong supporter of the Vietnam War and wrote songs that celebrated the American military. However, he also wrote

songs that criticized the government and its policies. Haggard's music was always honest and forthright, and he never shied away from expressing his opinions.

Merle Haggard was a true American icon. His music has touched the lives of millions of people around the world, and his legacy will continue to inspire and entertain for generations to come.

Top 10 Merle Haggard Songs

1. "Sing Me Back Home" 2. "Swinging Doors" 3. "The Bottle Let Me Down"
4. "Sing Me a Sad Song" 5. "Okie from Muskogee" 6. "Mama Tried" 7.
"Workin' Man Blues" 8. "I'm a Lonesome Fugitive" 9. "Branded Man" 10.
"The Fightin' Side of Me"

Merle Haggard was one of the most influential and successful country music singers of all time. His music was honest, emotional, and relatable, and he wrote songs about the struggles and triumphs of everyday people. Haggard's songs have had a lasting impact on the genre and have helped to shape the sound of country music today.



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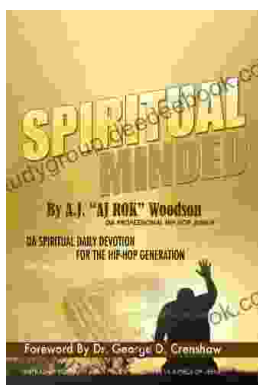
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