



Group Harmony: The Black Urban Roots of Rhythm and Blues

By Stuart L Goosman

University of Pennsylvania Press, United States, 2010. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 226 x 145 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. In 1948, the Orioles, a Baltimore-based vocal group, recorded It s Too Soon to Know. Combining the sound of Tin Pan Alley with gospel and blues sensibilities, the Orioles saw their first hit reach #13 on the pop charts, thus introducing the nation to vocal rhythm blues and paving the way for the most successful groups of the 1950s. In the first scholarly treatment of this influential musical genre, Stuart Goosman chronicles the Orioles story and that of myriad other black vocal groups in the postwar period. A few, like the Orioles, Cardinals, and Swallows from Baltimore and the Clovers from Washington, D.C., established the popularity of vocal rhythm blues nationally. Dozens of other well-known groups (and hundreds of unknown ones) across the country cut records and performed until about 1960. Record companies initially marketed this music as rhythm blues; today, group harmony continues to resonate for some as doo-wop. Focusing in particular on Baltimore and Washington and drawing significantly from oral histories, Group Harmony details the emergence of vocal rhythm blues groups from black urban neighborhoods. Group harmony...

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