

american premium record guide 1900 1965 l r docks

American Premium Record Guide 1900–1965 L–R Docks is a significant resource for collectors, historians, and music enthusiasts who are passionate about the evolution of recorded music in America from the early 20th century through the mid-1960s. This guide serves as a comprehensive catalog of recordings, focusing particularly on artists, labels, and releases that shaped the music scene during this transformative era. It is an invaluable tool for anyone seeking to understand the context and impact of American music, offering insights into genres, trends, and the technological advancements that facilitated the dissemination of music.

Historical Context

The Birth of Recorded Music

The early 1900s marked the beginning of a new era in music consumption. With the invention of the phonograph by Thomas Edison in the late 19th century, recorded music became accessible to the masses. This shift not only changed how people experienced music but also laid the groundwork for the music industry as we know it today.

The Rise of Record Labels

As demand for recorded music grew, so did the number of record labels. The American Premium Record Guide details the evolution of major labels and independent companies from 1900 to 1965, highlighting their contributions to various genres, including:

- Jazz
- Blues
- Country
- Rock and Roll
- Pop

These labels played a crucial role in promoting artists and shaping the sound of American music.

Structure of the Guide

Organization by Artist and Label

The American Premium Record Guide is meticulously organized, allowing users to easily locate information based on artist names and record labels. The L–R section focuses on artists and records that fall alphabetically within that range, featuring:

- Artist Biographies: Essential information about influential musicians.
- Discographies: Comprehensive lists of recordings, including singles and albums.
- Label Histories: Background on record labels, detailing their founding, evolution, and impact on the music industry.

Genre Breakdown

The guide categorizes recordings by genre, making it easier for users to

explore specific styles of music. Genres included in the guide reflect the diversity of the American music scene and its international influences.

Notable Artists and Recordings

Influential Figures

The L-R section of the guide features a range of notable artists who made significant contributions to American music. Some key figures include:

- Louis Armstrong: A foundational figure in jazz, Armstrong's innovative trumpet playing and vocal style transformed the genre.
- B.B. King: Known as the "King of Blues," B.B. King's expressive guitar work and emotive singing style left an indelible mark on music.
- Johnny Cash: A pioneer of country music, Cash's storytelling prowess and unique voice elevated the genre to new heights.
- Ella Fitzgerald: The "First Lady of Song," Fitzgerald's unparalleled vocal talent and improvisational skill showcased the best of jazz.

Iconic Recordings

The guide also highlights landmark recordings that defined the music landscape. Some of these recordings include:

1. "What a Wonderful World" - Louis Armstrong
2. "The Thrill is Gone" - B.B. King
3. "I Walk the Line" - Johnny Cash
4. "Summertime" - Ella Fitzgerald

These songs not only exemplify the artists' talents but also serve as cultural touchstones that resonate with audiences across generations.

Collecting and Valuing Records

The Importance of Condition

For collectors, the condition of a record is paramount. Factors that influence the value of a record include:

- Physical Condition: Scratches, warps, and label wear can significantly affect a record's worth.
- Rarity: Limited pressings or unique releases tend to be more valuable.
- Provenance: Records with a notable history or previous ownership can command higher prices.

Resources for Collectors

The American Premium Record Guide serves as an essential resource for collectors, offering:

- Price Guides: Estimated values for various records based on condition and rarity.
- Market Trends: Insights into current market dynamics, helping collectors make informed purchasing decisions.

The Impact of Technology

Advancements in Audio Recording

From the early days of shellac records to the introduction of vinyl in the late 1940s, technological advancements played a significant role in shaping the sound quality and accessibility of music. Key developments include:

- Electromagnetic Recording: Improved fidelity and allowed for greater dynamic range.
- Stereo Sound: Introduced in the 1950s, stereo recordings provided a more immersive listening experience.
- LP Records: The long-playing (LP) format revolutionized how music was consumed, allowing for full albums to be produced and enjoyed.

The Role of Radio and Television

The rise of radio and television during the mid-20th century significantly influenced the music industry. These media outlets became powerful platforms for promoting artists and their recordings, leading to:

- Increased Exposure: Artists could reach wider audiences through radio airplay and televised performances.
- Promotion of New Genres: Emerging styles like rock and roll gained traction through radio and television, shaping popular music culture.

Conclusion

The American Premium Record Guide 1900-1965 L-R Docks is more than just a catalog of recordings; it is a historical document that captures the evolution of American music over more than six decades. By exploring the artists, labels, and technological advancements in this guide, readers can gain a deeper appreciation for the rich tapestry of sounds that have defined American culture.

As a resource for collectors, historians, and music lovers alike, the guide serves to educate and inspire future generations about the profound impact of recorded music on society. Whether one is a seasoned collector or a casual listener, the insights provided by this guide are sure to enhance the understanding and enjoyment of America's musical heritage.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 'American Premium Record Guide 1900-1965'?

The 'American Premium Record Guide 1900-1965' is a comprehensive reference book that catalogs and evaluates American phonograph records from the early 20th century to the mid-1960s, providing insights into their historical significance and market value.

Who is L.R. Docks and what is his contribution to the record guide?

L.R. Docks is the author of the 'American Premium Record Guide 1900-1965,' known for his extensive knowledge of music history and record collecting, contributing valuable research and insights into the cataloging of vintage records.

What types of records are covered in the American Premium Record Guide?

The guide covers a wide range of records, including 78 RPMs, LPs, and EPs, spanning various genres such as jazz, blues, classical, and rock, offering detailed information about artists, labels, and the context of the recordings.

How can collectors benefit from the American Premium Record Guide?

Collectors can benefit from the guide by gaining accurate valuations, identifying rare records, and learning about the history and significance of their collections, which aids in buying, selling, and preserving vintage records.

Is the American Premium Record Guide considered a reliable source for record collectors?

Yes, the 'American Premium Record Guide 1900-1965' is regarded as a reliable source for record collectors due to its thorough research, expert insights, and comprehensive data on American records from that era.

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