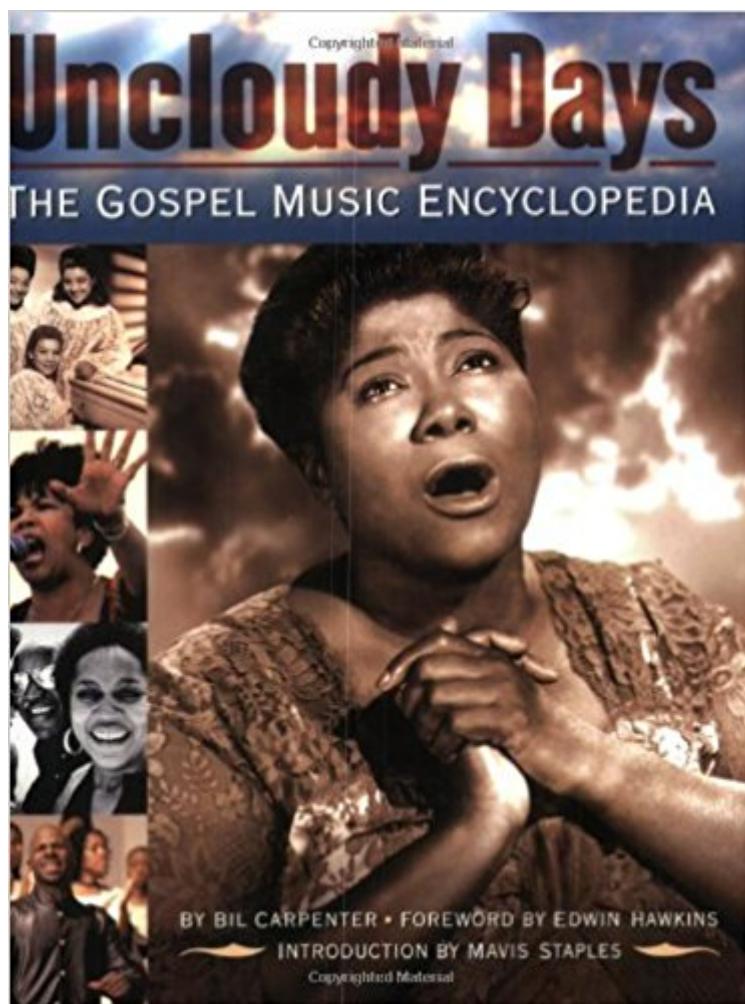


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# Uncloudy Days: The Gospel Music Encyclopedia (Book)



## **Synopsis**

(Book). This comprehensive guide is a must-have for the multitude of fans of this best-selling genre of popular music. *Uncloudy Days* is a treasure chest of substantial profiles on the influential names in gospel music history such as Thomas Dorsey, Mahalia Jackson, the Hawkins family, Clara Ward, James Cleveland, and the Winans. It also uncovers the history of one hit wonders and others who are not as familiar to gospel music fans. Everyone has a story to share and this book tells more than 500 of them, many based on personal interviews, including the trials and tribulations endured by so many gospel artists. The author offers entertaining and informative reviews that lead readers to the best recordings by their favorite artists and help them find new music to explore. A glossary of terms and numerous charts showing the best-selling gospel recordings and videos of all time round out this entertaining and indispensable resource for current fans and new converts alike.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"An invaluable and long overdue gem." -- Billboard magazine, September 20, 2005

I also echo the sentiments of other reviewers who feel that a lot of legends are missing from the Encyclopedia and some secular artists who should not have been included WERE. Personally, the only secular artists who should be listed in a book such as this should be those who got their start singing gospel professionally as a soloist or as part of a group, such as: Aretha Franklin, Della

Reese, Johnny Taylor, Sam Cooke, Judy Clay, Dionne Warwick, etc. Not those artists who may have sung at a few Easter or Christmas specials in their childhood. Then you would have to include almost every Black singer in America. Being a Mahalia Jackson fan, I found the entry on her very lopsided. It seems to have been based on interviews with people that resented her rather than appreciated her as a human being and a pioneer. The same Mahalia Jackson who this book paints as being selfish and self-serving was responsible for getting the Clara Ward Singers, the Gay Sisters (and little Bro. Donald Gay), The Drinkard (family) Singers on as opening "acts" for her first Carnegie Hall appearance - she was the featured Gospel singer. She was also instrumental in getting her friends Ira Tucker and the Dixie Hummingbirds and Ruth Jones (later known as Dinah Washington) on Apollo Records. Mahalia Jackson also promoted the music of her good friends gospel composers, Doris Akers and Margaret Aikens (songs such as, "Lord Don't Move the Mountain, The Only Hope We Have is Jesus, Not My Will But Thine Be Done"). Mahalia Jackson was also responsible for encouraging many young gospel talents from the 1930s thru 1960s to launch out and make names for themselves such as Rev. James Cleveland, Albertina Walker, The Boyer Brothers, Jessy Dixon, The Imperial Gospel Singers, Billy Always (her godson) and countless others. Now for Mahalia Jackson the humanitarian while it is well known that Mahalia was frugal when it came to spending on herself...the book doesn't mention Mahalia Jackson who lavished gifts on her aunts that raised her after her mother died. The Mahalia Jackson who paid doctor and nursing care bills for her first husband when his health began to decline. It doesn't talk about the Mahalia Jackson who paid for Mildred Falls' doctor bills even after Mildred was no longer a staff pianist (and she left Mildred in her will...the only non-family member to be a beneficiary). Mahalia also gave some of her personal money to fund the educations of many young Black and White students from lower income families until she could start the Mahalia Jackson Foundation. She also put money in MLK's hands to help with Civil Rights causes. The book claims that her friends got the short end of the stick when it comes to her spending money on them but one story sticks out is when fellow gospel legend, J. Robert Bradley recapped he was going thru hard times, and once while he was staying in Mahalia's home on a visit, she gave him one of her royalty checks from "Silent Night" which was a top selling record in Europe in the early 1950s. As for her "embarrassing Black friends in front of White people" she said certain things to racist southern cops to get her and her entourage off the hook from being badgered and brutalized while touring in the Jim Crow South...if they felt offended then they really must not have understood the ways of the South at that time, the way that she did. So I say that to say this if the author could have such a wanting article on the best known gospel artist of all times, then I feel more research and refinement needed to be

done overall. Hopefully this will not be the case with future reprints. Regards, A Disgruntled Mahalia Jackson/Golden Age of Gospel Music Fan

"A work that contains information on all branches of knowledge or treats comprehensively a particular branch of knowledge usually in articles arranged alphabetically often by subject". That is the definition for encyclopedia established in Webster Dictionary. Uncloudy Day is not just an encyclopedia of Gospel Music, but the greatest treasure of information contained in one book. You will read narratives that chronicles the lives behind the music. You will read about very renowned household names, to some not so well recognized, but all have helped to make gospel music what it is today. I am sure you will be encouraged when you read the stories behind the celebrated performers in this book. Also included is a Glossary of Terms, Gospel Trivia, Charts and a great deal more. As a Gospel Radio Announcer I highly recommend this book. If I had to put it in one word it would be "Astounding". Bil Carpenter has produced a MASTERPIECE. Musically Yours, Harrisburg's Prince of Gospel Music Pastor Stephen M. Linen Joyful Praise - WWII 720&Melodies & More Internet Radio

The critical reviews of this book are valid. Don't think of it as an "encyclopedia" in the classic sense but rather one man's subjective compilation of black gospel. Maybe the book should have been titled "Profiles in Gospel". That said, the author knows his gospel - especially from the 1980's to current. You may not agree with his personal assessment of some artists but that is part of the fun. It was a fascinating read that I kept going back to. It was great to have all these behind the scenes stories in one neat volume. Some of it is quite courageous to include in a volume about religious music. All of my favorite gospel artists were in there. A comprehensive book about every significant black gospel artist since Thomas Dorsey was bound to leave some less than satisfied. I give the author a lot of credit for such an ambitious undertaking.

This is one of the best documentaries on traditional gospel music that I have ever seen. It gives you full performances instead of short little teasers, which I hate. There are rare performances in the documentary that I have never seen before. I first saw this on Netflix and I just had to have a copy for myself.

This is one of those books that keep you going back to check and/or to read the story again. Several interesting facts that even I didn't know (And I'm a Collector!). Want to make a Gospel

Music lover happy or even someone that's not quite deep into Gospel will even find this very entertaining...This is the perfect Christmas, Birthday or 'I was just thinking about you' gift for ANYONE!!!Oh! there is a companion Compact Disc to go along with this book!!!Who could ask for more???

There will never be anyone who is able to top Ms. Jackson. I am a great admirer of her. I was blessed to see her one time in my life. Nobody, nobody will ever match her style.....

I have used the book in Elementary schools. This book has been used to encourage 2nd and 4th graders to read. We will order more copies later

This is a great addition to my Black History Collection. It is an easy read and full of forgotten people who paved the way for so many others.

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