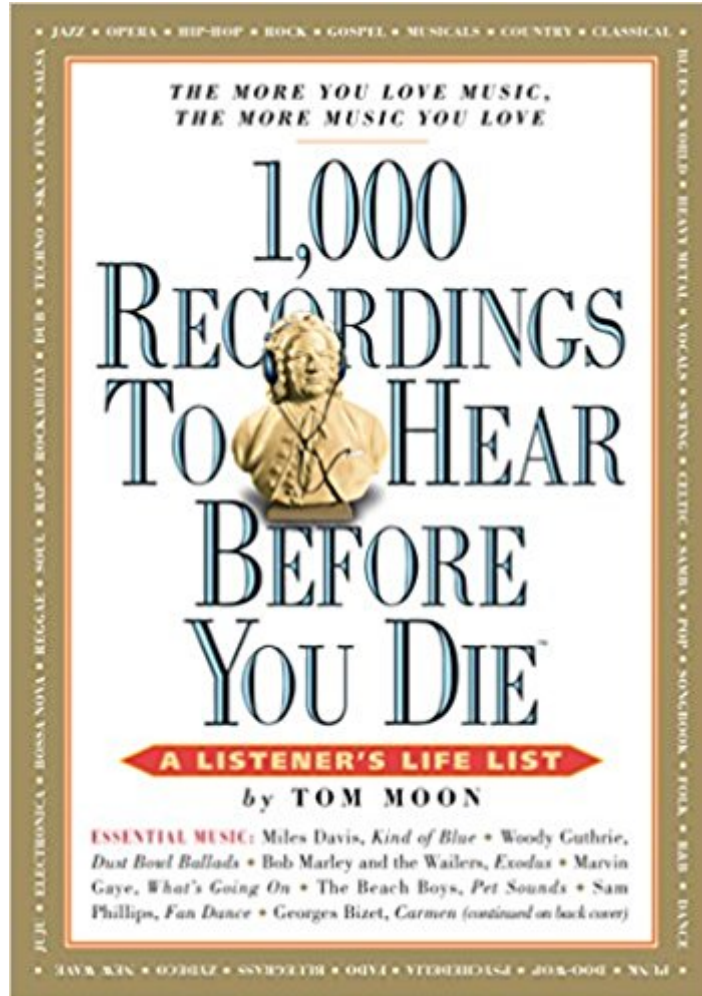


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1,000 Recordings To Hear Before You Die (1,000... Before You Die Books)



Synopsis

The musical adventure of a lifetime. The most exciting book on music in years. A book of treasure, a book of discovery, a book to open your ears to new worlds of pleasure. Doing for music what Patricia Schultz's *1,000 Places to See Before You Die* does for travel, Tom Moon recommends 1,000 recordings guaranteed to give listeners the joy, the mystery, the revelation, the sheer fun of great music. This is a book both broad and deep, drawing from the diverse worlds of classical, jazz, rock, pop, blues, country, folk, musicals, hip-hop, world, opera, soundtracks, and more. It's arranged alphabetically by artist to create the kind of unexpected juxtapositions that break down genre bias and broaden listeners' horizons—it makes every listener a seeker, actively pursuing new artists and new sounds, and reconfirming the greatness of the classics. Flanking J. S. Bach and his six entries, for example, are the little-known R&B singer Baby Huey and the '80s Rastafarian hard-core punk band Bad Brains. Farther down the list: The Band, Samuel Barber, Cecelia Bartoli, Count Basie, and Afropop star Waldemar Bastos. Each entry is passionately written, with expert listening notes, fascinating anecdotes, and the occasional perfect quote—"Your collection could be filled with nothing but music from Ray Charles," said Tom Waits, "and you'd have a completely balanced diet." Every entry identifies key tracks, additional works by the artist, and where to go next. And in the back, indexes and playlists for different moods and occasions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Celebrate the joy, the revelation, the mystery, the fun, the sheer shivers-up-the-spine pleasure of great music. Essential operas. Milestone rock albums. An education in the blues. The world of world. Classical from Bach to Bartók to Beethoven to Brahms. And dozens of unexpected gems, surprising discoveries, and long-lost masterpieces. The entries are arranged alphabetically, to break down genre bias and broaden every listener's horizons – think Miles Davis to Claude Debussy to the melodic story-songs of The Decemberists. And the writing is passionate, informed, opinionated. Includes indexes for every mood and occasion.

Award-winning music journalist Tom Moon is a regular contributor to National Public Radio's All Things Considered as well as Rolling Stone, Blender and other publications. During his twenty-year tenure as a music critic at the Philadelphia Inquirer, his writings appeared in hundreds of daily newspapers and magazines. A saxophonist, Moon began his career as a professional musician, working in assorted rock bands, cruise ship orchestras, and Maynard Ferguson's big band. He lives with his wife, daughter, two dogs and thousands of CDs in Haddonfield, New Jersey.

This is a great coffee table book.... which means, it's somewhat obsolete. I don't know that anyone is going to sit down and read this thru - it's something to browse aimlessly.

New note: it appears that this entire book is on the 1000recordings.com website. The layout on the website actually makes it easier to read than the Kindle edition. Check out the website before buying the book. If you have diverse interests in music, this is the book for you. The book may not be as useful if you only listen to one type of music and are already very familiar with those recordings (for instance if you only listen to classic rock). Of course, if you do not have any way to listen to the listed recordings, then this book might be somewhat pointless. However, it is fun to read about a recording, (e.g., an early 40's blues guitar recording; or a modern classical piece; or a 60's zydeco recording; or an early punk rock record etc.) and then listen to the recording at the same time using a service like Rhapsody. The Kindle edition of this book is a good buy at \$2.99; however, I think a hard copy of the book might be better because you'll do a lot of flipping back and forth between the chapters and appendices and a real book is better for this. I have noted that for the included classical and opera pieces, the author often chose really old recordings. Sure, these might be highly regarded classic recordings of these pieces, but they also sound like crap compared to modern recordings. I am quite sure that there are great recordings of these classical masterpieces that are

not 60 or 70 years old.

Well OK, the book didn't cost that much, but its impact certainly did. On one level this book makes an informative read that should develop a curiosity about the music that surrounds us all. Some reviews criticize it for not being the definitive list of all that is best; well, OK, maybe that is the case, but I took from this book that it was just a list and that in digesting its contents there should grow inside you a curiosity to find your own '1001' that may or may not include elements of this 'list'. That you should go out and listen to this 'list' or indeed find your own is enough; you have found your music and felt what it does to you. Aha! But can/do/should you stop there? Maybe I took things a bit too far as I sought out not the CD from the local music store (we'll come to 'record store' in a minute) but as much of the original recordings as I could find. Yes, I sought out the vinyl where it was on vinyl, CD where it was on CD and 78 where it was on 78 and actually bought them (not all 1001 I assure you! Just the ones I wanted to hear...) hence the book being 'expensive'; most you can get for under ten dollars, but start looking for mono Rolling Stones or Hendrix first pressings from the UK with intact inner materials etc and it will start to cost...) Yes, it is all still out there; eBay being the obvious choice among rival bidders - but you get the choice of 'good enough', '1st pressing' or 'cheap and playable' depending on your budget, preference etc. Then you have the local thrift stores and 'record stores' where people dump those piles of vinyl from the attic - recycling, perhaps? Wherever it comes from, you can find it and this is the core of my message. If you can find it to rent (local library) or buy (eBay, thrift etc) get the original and hear it as it was supposed to be heard. This book will literally jump out at you and you will thirst for more... That music was crafted long ago by those who sought to bring an experience to their listener and did so according to how its reproduction should sound (or at least as best they could manage within the boundaries of the technology at the time... Jelly Roll Morton, Memphis Minnie and Bix Beiderbecke for example). There have been many treatises on the reproduction of music - especially classical, written not for the LP but for the salon or concert hall - but to experience it in the medium that brings the intent of the composer/writer/performer alive should not be missed. From within that medium comes the textures and dimensions modern compression for our disposable 'noise in the background' music media have destroyed or lost along the way.... then you will have found your music. It won't be that of the reviewers, nor necessarily the same 'list', but you will have experienced what music can do as well as understand where it comes from and how it has developed. Buying this book will begin a journey you can enjoy and share with others too, learning of their tastes and perspectives and sharing yours - to say nothing of nostalgia etc. Tell you what... go down to the local 'record store', find a good copy

of an album (and I mean an LP you own on CD) you think you know (according to taste...) and play it in the store. See what you think. Enjoy.

If you are a baby boomer trying to grab gusto before you check out, this is the book for you. Now you can make sure that every recording worth listening to has crossed your ears. Personally, I used it to make sure my iPod collection was complete. Has made cruising the recycled records stores much easier. I may not agree with all his opinions, but at the least it give me a chance to be sure I haven't missed anything major. I'm not sure I need to be told to listen to Pet Sounds or many of the other chosen recordings, but in case I lived in a cave for a few years there, nothing will be left to chance. Definitely a must buy.

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