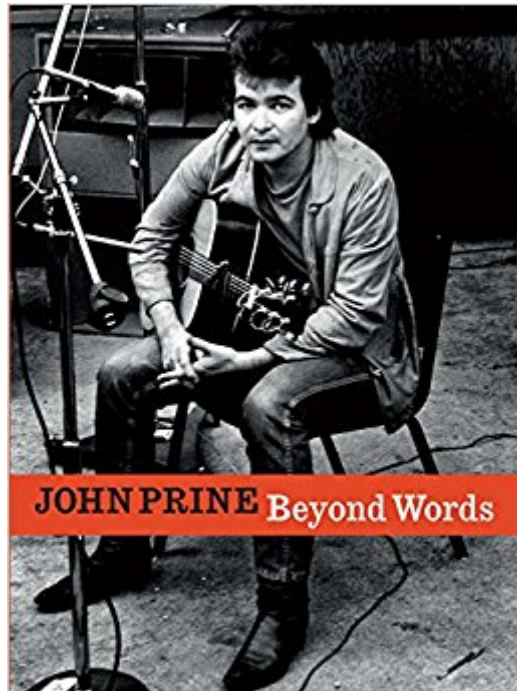




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John Prine Beyond Words



Synopsis

John Prine has written songs that have become central to America's musical heritage. In this book, Prine curates a selection of his best loved songs. Over 100 photographs from John Prine's personal collection. Copies of hand-written lyrics showing how the songs evolved. Commentary from John about the songs and photographs. Lyrics and guitar chords for over 60 classic John Prine songs. "He did a better job of holding up the mirror of art to the 60s and 70s than any of our official literary poets." -Ted Kooser, US Poet Laureate "He just has a unique ability to haiku it - it's deceptively insightful. It's at once playing on words and imagery, but expressing something deeper in such a succinct way, in such an exceptional way." - Bonnie Raitt

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was given to a friend as a gift--he is a long time JP fan, as am I, going back to the days of Amazingrace Coffeehouse at Northwestern University in the 70's. He said it has gotten him back to playing old favorites on his guitar, and has brought back memories.

I purchased this book directly from John's website. For anyone even remotely familiar with his work, this book is an absolute treasure trove of personal photos accompanied by short blurbs that are insightful and humorous as only JP can write. It is a songbook, so musicians are sure to appreciate the chords published alongside the lyrics to over 100 of his most beloved songs. For me, going through "Beyond Words" was much like having the opportunity to sit down with John and view his personal photo albums. Major kudos to John and the team at Oh Boy Records for such great quality

work!

I highly recommend this wonderful book and to all John Prine fans

Great for fans. Prine is special

Awesome pics and stories! JP is an American treasure

It's great. It's John Prine. What do you expect?

This book is an absolute must-have for John Prine fans. The thick, glossy pages are of the highest quality. Those who love to play and sing Prine songs will appreciate that the book is built to withstand a daily workout. Like John's music and everything sold on his web site, it's built to stand the test of time. The chord changes are perfectly spaced above the lyrics and come directly from the source--Jason Wilber, John's long-time guitarist. The eight-by-ten color glossy photographs of John's hand-written lyrics surpass even Arlo's evidential pics, without the circles and arrows, but with a paragraph on FRONT explaining what each one was (to be used as evidence FOR John). Even if you don't play or sing, the lyrics stand as a beautiful testament to one of the greatest songwriters of all time. You'll enjoy reading them for their artistic value and you'll marvel at how well John can construct a concise snapshot of a moment in time. John is quick to give credit to those who helped him along the way--right down to the person who came up with "Mocha man..." to visually describe a Native American. Warning: This book is so good it may inspire you to blow up your TV.

It's hard to believe that this is the FIRST book ever published of John Prine's songs. And, like a lot of what Prine does, it's independently published. Prine, and longtime manager and label co-owner, the late Al Bunetta, released most of Prine's recordings on their Oh Boy Records label and this book is the first one published under the Oh Boy Books imprint. (The FIRST EDITION was printed in China in 2016, but the SECOND PRINTING was just recently printed in the US and hit the shelves in April 2017) It's a graphically gorgeous book with the printed lyrics to 65 Prine-penned songs (or co-writes) as well as the chord notations. Complimenting these songs are often color reproductions of the ORIGINAL hand written lyrics, or rare personal photographs from Prine's collection. There are captions to some, showing

Prine's humor (though the people in, nor the location of, the photos are not identified on the page. There is a listing of the participants, sometimes the date and/or location and the photographer, in the back on pages 178 and 179 (of the 180-page 9x12 inch softbound book. I really do like this book a lot and ALL Prine fans will want it. I just have a few quibbles that would have made it perfect. The songs (lyrics and related images) are arranged alphabetically in the book. I have no qualms with that. However nowhere are the dates of the songs given. (Even the copyright dates). Not on Page 176-77, where the "Song Credits" are listed either. These songs cover a career exceeding 40 years and not all the songs were big hits, so you can't tell where in Prine's career these songs fall. Sure the ones you know "Paradise", "Sam Stone", and the (can't get it out of your head) "That's The Way The World Goes Round" came in the earlier years, but without a discography, you can't tell which ones were composed in the last 10, or 20, years. No, I'm still giving the book five stars, but if there is a follow-up I hope the dates will be there. Oh Boy has also created a "Spotify Playlist" to complement the book. By logging in, you'll be able to sing along. You'll find it at the Oh Boy Website. I hope you found this review both informative and helpful .Steve Ramm"Anything Phonographic"

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