



# The Golden Age of Gospel (Music in American Life)

*Horace Clarence Boyer*

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## **The Golden Age of Gospel (Music in American Life)** Horace Clarence Boyer

'Professional gospel performer, composer, and scholar Horace Clarence Boyer presents the first definitive history of the vibrant, visceral tradition of black gospel music. Originally published as "How Sweet the Sound", this authoritative work is beautifully illustrated with Lloyd Year wood's arresting photographs of gospel's greatest performers backstage and in the heat of performance'. 'Skillfully blending music history and social context, Boyer traces the development of gospel from its earliest beginnings through the Golden Age (1945-55) and into the 1960s when gospel entered the concert hall. He introduces dozens of the genre's most gifted contributors, from Thomas A. Dorsey and Mahalia Jackson to the Soul Stirrers and Aretha Franklin, evoking their distinctive styles and distinguishing among the characteristic sounds of gospel music in Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, St. Louis, and other locations. Capturing the essence of a thrilling performance tradition, "The Golden Age of Gospel" clearly establishes gospel's importance as an authentic American art form and a musical statement of profound belief'.

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