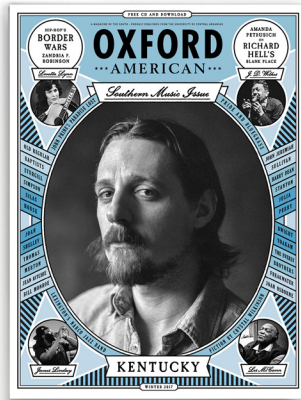


October 30, 2017

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The *Oxford American's* 19th annual Southern Music issue celebrates the lasting musical legacy of Kentucky

The 160-page magazine and 27-song soundtrack will be on newsstands Nov. 21, 2017

LITTLE ROCK, AR — The *Oxford American* is proud to present its 19th annual Southern Music issue, featuring more than 25 stories illuminating the historic and contemporary musical legacy of Kentucky. Five artists grace the cover: country music innovator **Sturgill Simpson**, Louisville rapper **James Lindsey**, Paducah troubadour **J. D. Wilkes**, and Commonwealth icons **Les McCann** and **Loretta Lynn**.

The Kentucky music issue comes with a 27-song CD compilation—plus accompanying digital download that includes two bonus tracks—of music by Kentucky artists ranging from recordings made in 1927 to 2017. In addition to songs by the five cover artists, the compilation highlights music from **The Everly Brothers**, **Joan Shelley**, **Dwight Yoakam**, **Freakwater**, **Bill Monroe**, **Bonnie “Prince” Billy**, **Jean Ritchie**, **Rachel Grimes**, **Dave Evans**, **King Kong**, **Harry Dean Stanton**, and many others. This showcase of Kentucky music also includes a new rendition of the murder ballad “Pretty Polly” by an all-female octet. The song was recorded exclusively for the *Oxford American* at Louisville’s historic Locust Grove this summer. The CD was mastered by Grammy-winning producer Michael Graves of Osiris Studio in Atlanta.

In the magazine, some of Kentucky’s greatest living writers chronicle the Commonwealth’s musical legacy, including: **John Jeremiah Sullivan** on an overlooked traditional instrument, **Ronni Lundy** on Dwight Yoakam, **Silas House** on the **Phipps Family**, **Leesa Cross-Smith** on Sturgill Simpson, **Erik Reece** on Freakwater, **J. D. Daniels** on jazz guitarist **Jimmy Raney**, **Jason Howard** on **Joan Osborne**, and **Michael L. Jones** on the Louisville origins of “Happy Birthday to You.” Plus: liner notes by **Minda Honey**, **Nathan Salsburg**, **Jay Rutenberg**, **Elyssa East**, and **Joe Manning**; new fiction by Lexington novelist **Crystal Wilkinson**; and three previously unpublished poems by the influential late Catholic writer and monk **Thomas Merton**.

A few more highlights: **David Ramsey** hears the joyful sound of the **Old Regular Baptists**; **Amanda Petrusich** profiles punk-rock architect and Lexington native **Richard Hell**; **Harmony Holiday** interviews soul jazz legend Les McCann about his Kentucky childhood; **Jeffrey A. Keith** explores the importance of **Appalshop’s** community radio station WMMT; **John Thomason** revisits **John Prine’s** seminal protest song “Paradise”; and **Zandria F. Robinson**—who was nominated for a National Magazine Award for her essay in the *OA’s* 2016 music issue—writes about the border wars in hip-hop and Southern identity.

In addition to writing and music, the issue features visual artworks and illustrations by Kentuckians, including **Robert Beatty**, **Letitia Quesenberry**, **Bruce New**, **LaVon Van Williams Jr.**, **Guy Mendes**, **James Robert Southard**, **Bob Hower**, **Meg Wilson**, as well as photographs by Les McCann.

The Kentucky music issue and CD was made possible by the generous support of the *OA’s* **Ambassadors for the Commonwealth**: 21c Museum Hotels, Bowling Green Area CVB, Four Roses Bourbon, Kentucky Department of Tourism, University of Kentucky, and VisitLEX.

To order a single copy of the Fall 2017 issue, visit your local bookstore or newsstand, or purchase a copy at OxfordAmericanGoods.org. For bulk orders, contact info@oxfordamerican.org or 501-374-0000 x 206. *Oxford American* editors are available for interviews. Please contact press@oxfordamerican.org for more information, or to request a review copy.

ABOUT THE OXFORD AMERICAN

Oxford American is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization and national magazine dedicated to featuring the very best in Southern writing, while documenting the complexity and vitality of the American South. The *Oxford American* is committed to the development of young individuals aspiring to work in the publishing industry and to the production and presentation of multidisciplinary arts events in and around Little Rock, Arkansas. Billed as “A Magazine of the South,” it has won four National Magazine Awards—including the 2016 Award for General Excellence in the category of Literature, Science and Politics—and other high honors since it began publication in 1992. The *Oxford American* is published from the University of Central Arkansas. For more information, visit OxfordAmerican.org.