The Oxford American’s 17th Southern Music issue celebrates Georgia

The 176-page magazine and 25-song soundtrack will be available on newsstands nationwide on December 1, 2015

LITTLE ROCK, AR — The Oxford American is proud to present its 17th annual Southern Music issue, which celebrates the immense musical legacy, both past and present, of the state of Georgia.

Published in partnership with the Georgia Department of Economic Development’s Tourism Division, the issue comes with a 25-song CD compilation that features music by Georgia artists such as James Brown, Sandy Gaye, Gram Parsons, Otis Redding, OutKast, Indigo Girls, Drive-By Truckers, the Allman Brothers Band, and many more. This showcase of Georgia music also includes a cover of the song “Midnight”—written by songwriting legends Boudleaux Bryant and Chet Atkins and recorded by Ray Charles—by the Athens-based band Futurebirds. The cover was recorded exclusively for the Oxford American. The compilation ends with a recently discovered 1961 demo recording of Henry Mancini and Johnny Mercer performing “Moon River.” The CD was mastered by Grammy-winning producer Michael Graves of Osiris Studio in Atlanta.

In the magazine, more than 45 writers take on the task of chronicling numerous musical traditions and artists from Georgia—including legends, innovators, and the state’s brightest visionaries. A few highlights: Peter Guralnick on his discovery of Blind Willie McTell and the electrifying experience of seeing the James Brown Show in 1965; Kiese Laymon on the influence of OutKast; Amanda Petrusich on the Allman Brothers Band and Capricorn Records; Elyssa East on Gram Parsons and his “Nudie suits”; and Brit Bennett on Janelle Monae and Wondaland Records. The issue has a special section called “Athens x Athens,” in which musicians from the famous scene share stories and anecdotes about what makes the town an unmatched hub for creativity.

A few more highlights: David Ramsey contemplates Little Richard; a profile of the swing jazz bandleader Fletcher Henderson by Cynthia Shearer; Creative Loafing senior staff writer Rodney Carmichael talks Dungeon Family with Rico Wade; rapper Killer Mike turns 40; Wyatt Williams goes in search of Dust-to-Digital’s magnum opus; Dom Flemons pays tribute to “Father of Gospel” Thomas A. Dorsey; new poetry by MacArthur Fellow A. E. Stallings; and much, much more.

The CD was produced by OA managing editor Maxwell George. Both Maxwell George and OA editor Eliza Borné are available for interviews. Please contact press@oxfordamerican.org for more information.

ABOUT THE OXFORD AMERICAN

The Oxford American is a national magazine dedicated to featuring the best in Southern writing, while documenting the complexity and vitality of the American South. Edited by Eliza Borné and billed as “A Magazine of the South,” the OA has won three National Magazine Awards and other high honors since it began publication in 1992. The magazine has published the original work of such acclaimed writers as Charles Portis, Roy Blount, Jr., ZZ Packer, Donald Harington, Donna Tartt, and many others, while also discovering and launching the most promising writers in the region. Visit OxfordAmerican.org to learn more.