forest hills stadium history

forest hills stadium history reflects a rich narrative intertwined with the evolution of tennis and cultural events in Queens, New York. Established in the early 20th century, Forest Hills Stadium became an iconic venue known for hosting prestigious tennis tournaments and memorable concerts. This article explores the stadium's origins, architectural features, significant events, and its role in shaping the sporting and entertainment landscape. The stadium's transformation over the decades highlights its resilience and adaptability, maintaining relevance in a changing world. From its early days as the home of the U.S. National Championships to its revival as a concert venue, Forest Hills Stadium history offers a compelling glimpse into American sports and entertainment heritage. This comprehensive overview will cover the stadium's creation, major milestones, notable tournaments, and its cultural impact. Read on for an in-depth look at the Forest Hills Stadium history and its enduring legacy.

- · Origins and Construction of Forest Hills Stadium
- Role in Tennis History
- Architectural Features and Design
- Transition to a Concert and Event Venue
- · Renovations and Modern Usage
- Notable Events and Cultural Impact

Origins and Construction of Forest Hills Stadium

The Forest Hills Stadium was constructed in 1923 as part of the West Side Tennis Club located in the Forest Hills neighborhood of Queens, New York. The stadium was initially built to provide a premier outdoor venue for tennis competitions, reflecting the growing popularity of the sport in the United States during the early 20th century. The West Side Tennis Club had relocated to this site in 1913, but it was not until a decade later that the stadium itself was erected to accommodate larger audiences and major events. The choice of Forest Hills as the location was strategic, offering accessibility to New York City residents and providing an exclusive setting for tennis enthusiasts. The construction employed traditional materials and methods of the time, focusing on a classic design that emphasized both functionality and spectator experience. This early phase of Forest Hills Stadium history marks its establishment as a cornerstone of American tennis infrastructure.

Initial Purpose and Development

The primary purpose of the stadium was to host the U.S. National Championships, which would later become the U.S. Open. This development was part of a broader movement to elevate American tennis on the world stage. The stadium's capacity and facilities were designed to accommodate increasing crowds attracted by the sport's rising profile. Early development efforts included the installation of grass courts, which were the standard playing surface for tennis tournaments at the time. Additionally, the stadium was designed to be adaptable to various sporting and social events, setting the stage for its future versatility. Forest Hills Stadium history from this period reflects an era of growth and ambition within the tennis community.

Role in Tennis History

Forest Hills Stadium holds a distinguished place in tennis history as the primary venue for the U.S. National Championships from 1924 until 1977. During this era, the stadium witnessed legendary matches featuring some of the sport's greatest athletes. Its role in hosting the national championships helped to popularize tennis in the United States and contributed to the sport's international prestige.

The stadium was known for its intimate atmosphere, allowing fans to experience tennis at close range, which enhanced its reputation among players and spectators alike. Over the decades, Forest Hills Stadium became synonymous with high-level competition and significant milestones within the tennis world.

Major Tournaments and Matches

The U.S. National Championships held at Forest Hills Stadium featured some of the most iconic matches in tennis history. Champions such as Bill Tilden, Don Budge, Arthur Ashe, and Chris Evert competed on its grass courts, creating unforgettable moments that have been etched into the sport's legacy. Noteworthy matches include the 1968 final, which marked the beginning of the Open Era, allowing professional players to compete alongside amateurs. The tournament's prestige attracted top international players, further establishing the stadium as a global tennis hub. The transition of the U.S. Open to the nearby USTA National Tennis Center in 1978 marked the end of this era but did not diminish the stadium's historical significance.

Impact on Tennis Development

By serving as the main venue for the U.S. National Championships for over five decades, Forest Hills Stadium played a crucial role in the development of tennis in America. It helped to raise public awareness of the sport and encouraged youth participation. The stadium's status attracted investment and improvements in tennis infrastructure nationwide. Additionally, it was a site where changes in tennis rules and styles of play were showcased, influencing how the game evolved. Forest Hills Stadium history in this context reflects its function as a catalyst for growth and modernization within the tennis community.

Architectural Features and Design

The architectural design of Forest Hills Stadium is notable for its classic, open-air structure and

emphasis on spectator experience. Built primarily from wood and brick, the stadium originally featured a large grandstand with a seating capacity of approximately 14,000. Its design was intended to blend functionality with aesthetic appeal, creating a welcoming environment for both players and fans. The stadium's layout facilitated excellent sightlines from nearly every seat, contributing to the intimate and engaging atmosphere for tennis matches. Over time, the structure saw various modifications to improve safety and comfort.

Original Design Elements

Key design elements of the stadium included its grass courts, which were meticulously maintained to meet championship standards. The grandstand was arranged in a horseshoe shape, allowing for a central playing area with ample seating. The use of natural materials contributed to the stadium's warm and traditional look. Ancillary facilities, such as locker rooms and lounges, were incorporated into the design to support players and officials. The stadium's open-air nature provided natural lighting and ventilation, which were considered essential for outdoor tennis events.

Architectural Significance

Forest Hills Stadium's architecture is representative of early 20th-century sports venues that prioritized both utility and charm. It exemplifies the era's approach to stadium construction before the advent of modern, fully enclosed arenas. The structure's historic design has earned it recognition as a landmark within the sporting community. Its preservation and restoration efforts highlight appreciation for architectural heritage alongside functional use. Forest Hills Stadium history thus includes its architectural legacy as a symbol of classic sports venue design.

Transition to a Concert and Event Venue

After the U.S. Open moved to the USTA National Tennis Center in 1978, Forest Hills Stadium underwent a significant transition from a tennis-exclusive venue to a multipurpose site for concerts and

cultural events. This change marked a new chapter in the stadium's history, expanding its role within the community and entertainment industry. The stadium's open design and capacity made it an attractive location for large-scale performances, ranging from rock concerts to theatrical productions. This diversification helped sustain the venue's relevance and attracted a broader audience beyond tennis fans.

Early Concerts and Cultural Events

Starting in the late 1970s and through the 1980s, Forest Hills Stadium hosted a variety of concerts featuring prominent musical acts. The venue became known for its excellent acoustics and intimate setting, which were appealing to both performers and audiences. Notable artists from various genres performed at the stadium, contributing to its reputation as a premier outdoor concert venue in New York City. In addition to music, the stadium also hosted other cultural and community events, demonstrating its versatility. This period of Forest Hills Stadium history is characterized by its successful adaptation to new entertainment formats.

Challenges and Decline

Despite its initial success as a concert venue, Forest Hills Stadium faced challenges including maintenance issues and competition from newer venues. By the 1990s, the stadium's condition had deteriorated due to limited investment and changing market demands. This decline led to decreased use and raised concerns about the stadium's future. Nonetheless, the site remained an important cultural landmark and potential asset for redevelopment. Efforts to preserve and revitalize the stadium began to take shape in response to these challenges.

Renovations and Modern Usage

In recent years, Forest Hills Stadium has experienced a renaissance through extensive renovations aimed at restoring its structural integrity and modernizing facilities. These efforts have sought to

preserve the historic character of the stadium while upgrading its amenities to meet contemporary standards. Renovations included the installation of new seating, lighting, sound systems, and improved accessibility. This revitalization has reestablished the stadium as a viable venue for large-scale events and concerts, attracting new generations of visitors.

Restoration Projects

The restoration projects focused on maintaining the stadium's iconic features while ensuring safety and comfort. Preservationists and architects collaborated to retain the original design elements, such as the brick facade and grandstand layout, while integrating modern technology. The turf courts were replaced with a durable surface suitable for a variety of events. These projects were guided by a commitment to honor Forest Hills Stadium history and its cultural significance. The stadium's reopening was met with enthusiasm from the community and event organizers alike.

Current Role and Events

Today, Forest Hills Stadium serves as a prominent venue for concerts, festivals, and special events. It has hosted performances by internationally recognized artists and continues to attract diverse audiences. The stadium's location and historic ambiance provide a unique experience compared to contemporary arenas. Its programming often includes a mix of music, cultural celebrations, and private functions, demonstrating its versatility. The revitalized stadium stands as a testament to the enduring appeal and adaptability of historic sports and entertainment venues.

Notable Events and Cultural Impact

Throughout its history, Forest Hills Stadium has been the site of numerous notable events that have contributed to its cultural impact. From legendary tennis matches to iconic concerts, the stadium has played a key role in shaping the cultural fabric of Queens and the wider New York City area. Its presence has fostered community engagement and provided a platform for artistic and athletic

excellence. The stadium's influence extends beyond its physical structure, symbolizing the intersection of sport, music, and community heritage.

Historic Tennis Moments

Memorable tennis matches at Forest Hills Stadium include milestones such as the first Open Era final in 1968 and breakthrough performances by pioneering athletes. These moments have been widely documented and celebrated within tennis circles. The stadium's association with such events enhances its reputation as a landmark of sporting achievement and progress. These historic moments continue to inspire players and fans alike.

Iconic Concerts and Performances

Forest Hills Stadium has hosted a wide array of significant concerts featuring legendary performers. Artists across genres—from rock and pop to jazz and classical—have graced its stage, creating memorable experiences for attendees. These events have contributed to the stadium's status as a cultural hub and have helped to diversify its legacy beyond sports. The venue's role in the music scene has been instrumental in maintaining its relevance and vibrancy.

Community and Cultural Significance

The stadium's impact on the local community includes economic benefits through tourism and event-related activities. It has also served as a gathering place that promotes cultural exchange and social cohesion. Preservation of Forest Hills Stadium history is supported by local organizations and fans who recognize its importance as a historic and cultural asset. The stadium continues to be a symbol of pride for Queens and a testament to the enduring power of shared cultural experiences.

Construction in 1923 as part of the West Side Tennis Club

- Hosted U.S. National Championships from 1924 to 1977
- · Iconic grass courts and classic architectural design
- Transitioned to a concert venue post-1978
- Underwent major renovations for modern use
- Notable tennis matches and legendary concerts
- Ongoing cultural and community significance

Frequently Asked Questions

When was Forest Hills Stadium originally built?

Forest Hills Stadium was originally built in 1923 as a tennis stadium in Queens, New York.

What was the primary purpose of Forest Hills Stadium when it was first constructed?

The primary purpose of Forest Hills Stadium was to serve as the main venue for the U.S. National Tennis Championships, now known as the US Open.

When did Forest Hills Stadium stop hosting the US Open?

Forest Hills Stadium stopped hosting the US Open in 1978, when the tournament moved to the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows.

What other events has Forest Hills Stadium been known for besides tennis?

Besides tennis, Forest Hills Stadium has been known for hosting concerts, including performances by famous artists such as The Beatles, Bob Dylan, and The Rolling Stones.

How was Forest Hills Stadium used after it ceased being the US Open venue?

After the US Open moved, Forest Hills Stadium was used for various concerts, events, and community activities, though it fell into periods of neglect before recent restoration efforts.

What is significant about the 1965 concert at Forest Hills Stadium?

The 1965 concert at Forest Hills Stadium is notable for featuring Bob Dylan's famous electric performance, which was a pivotal moment in music history.

Has Forest Hills Stadium undergone any restoration efforts?

Yes, Forest Hills Stadium has undergone significant restoration starting in the late 2010s to preserve the historic venue and transform it into a modern concert and event space.

What is the current use of Forest Hills Stadium?

Today, Forest Hills Stadium is a popular outdoor concert venue hosting a variety of music events, cultural gatherings, and community activities, blending its historic legacy with contemporary entertainment.

Additional Resources

1. Forest Hills Stadium: A Legacy in Music and Tennis

This book chronicles the dual history of Forest Hills Stadium, highlighting its transformation from a

premier tennis venue to a legendary concert hall. It explores iconic tennis matches held during the U.S. Open era and the stadium's rebirth as a cultural landmark for live music performances. Rich with photographs and personal anecdotes, the book captures the spirit of the stadium through decades of change.

2. Echoes from Forest Hills: Concerts That Shaped a Generation

Focusing on the musical heritage of Forest Hills Stadium, this volume details some of the most memorable concerts and festivals hosted at the venue. Featuring stories about legendary artists like The Beatles, Bob Dylan, and Jimi Hendrix, the book paints a vivid picture of the stadium's role in music history. It also discusses the cultural impact these performances had on generations of fans.

3. The Tennis Courts of Forest Hills: From Grass to Glory

This book provides an in-depth look at Forest Hills Stadium's role in the development of American tennis, especially during the early 20th century. It covers the transition from grass courts to hard courts and the significance of the U.S. National Championships held there. Personal profiles of famous players and tournament highlights bring the history to life.

4. Reviving Forest Hills: The Restoration of a New York Icon

Detailing the extensive restoration efforts of the stadium in the 21st century, this book tells the story of how community activists and preservationists saved Forest Hills Stadium from neglect. It covers the challenges faced in restoring the historic structure and the vision behind its transformation into a premier concert venue. The narrative celebrates the collaboration that preserved this cultural treasure.

5. Forest Hills Through the Decades: A Cultural Landmark

This comprehensive history traces the evolution of Forest Hills Stadium and its surrounding neighborhood from the 1920s to today. It explores how the stadium influenced local culture, sports, and entertainment, reflecting broader social changes. The book includes interviews with longtime residents and key figures involved with the stadium.

6. Grand Slam at Forest Hills: Tennis Legends and Historic Matches

Focusing on the era when Forest Hills was home to the U.S. National Championships, this book

highlights unforgettable matches and legendary players who competed there. Detailed accounts of epic battles on the court and the atmosphere surrounding these events provide tennis enthusiasts with a vivid historical perspective. The book also discusses the stadium's impact on the sport's popularity in the U.S.

7. Soundwaves at Forest Hills: The Stadium's Musical Renaissance

This text explores the stadium's revival as a premier venue for live music after decades of dormancy. It discusses modern concert productions, notable performers, and how the venue's unique architecture enhances the concert experience. The book includes insights from musicians and promoters who have been part of Forest Hills' musical renaissance.

8. From Tennis to Tunes: The Dual Identity of Forest Hills Stadium

Examining the stadium's unique history as both a sports and entertainment venue, this book discusses how Forest Hills transitioned from hosting tennis championships to becoming a beloved concert destination. It analyzes the factors that led to the shift and how the stadium maintained its relevance across different audiences. The narrative includes cultural and economic perspectives.

9. Moments in Time: Photographs from Forest Hills Stadium

A visually rich collection, this book compiles rare and iconic photographs capturing historic moments at Forest Hills Stadium. Spanning tennis matches, concerts, and public events, the images tell the story of the stadium's vibrant past. Accompanied by detailed captions, the photographs offer readers a nostalgic journey through the venue's history.

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forest hills stadium history: The Story of the B-52s Scott Creney, Brigette Adair Herron, 2023-05-05 The Story of the B-52s: Neon Side of Town is the first critical history of one of the most legendary and influential bands in American popular music. Locating The B-52s in the intellectual

climate of their hometown of Athens, GA and following the band from New York's downtown scene in the early 1980s to their upcoming farewell tour, the book argues that The B-52s are much more significant political and musical influences on American society than their reputation as a silly party band suggests, and that their ongoing commitment to values including cooperation, mutual support, and using disruptive fun as a form of social change are an antidote to the neoliberalization sweeping both Athens and the rest of the Western world. For example, the book shows how the band synthesized influences from the modern artists displayed at the University of Georgia art museum, early queer activism on campus in the 1970s, and their experiences as queer people living through the AIDS crisis to create music that continues to be artistically and politically influential today. The authors are active members of the Athens, GA music scene, and the book includes original interviews with a range of number close to the band.

forest hills stadium history: A Brief History of Rock, Off the Record Wayne Robins, 2016-03-31 The birth of rock 'n' roll signaled the blossoming of a new teenage culture, dividing generations and introducing a new attitude of rebellion and independence. From Chuck Berry to the Beatles, from punk rock to hip hop, rock 'n' roll has continuously transformed alongside or in reaction to social, cultural, and political changes. A Brief History of Rock, Off the Record is a concise introduction to rock history and the impact it has had on American culture. It is an easy-to-read, vivid account written by one of rock's leading critics. Pulling from personal interviews over the years, Wayne Robins interweaves the developments in rock music with his commentary on the political and social events and movements that defined their decades.

forest hills stadium history: Legendary Locals of Forest Hills and Rego Park Michael H. Perlman, 2015 In 1906, Cord Meyer Development Company purchased 600 acres in Whitepot and renamed it Forest Hills after its high elevation of rolling hills and proximity to Forest Park. After the Russell Sage Foundation acquired 142 acres and Grosvenor Atterbury and Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. partnered, the Forest Hills Gardens, founded in 1909, became America's earliest planned garden community. When Henry Schloh and Charles Hausmann of the Rego Construction Company came upon farmland in Forest Hills West, they renamed it Rego Park in 1923 after their slogan, REal GOod Homes. Between the Tudor and Colonial landmarks, one can sense the footsteps of a few hundred notables who granted soul to the community and society. At the Forest Hills Tennis Stadium, imagine the Beatles landing in a helicopter in front of screaming fans in 1964, or when Althea Gibson became the first African American to win a US national tennis title in 1957. Forest Hills High School was a cornerstone for notable alumni, such as composer Burt Bacharach; musical duo Simon & Garfunkel; Bob Keeshan, who portrayed Captain Kangaroo; and the first space tourist, Dennis Tito.

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against all odds, a hero was crowned or an unspeakable human error cost an athlete a championship or a team the entire season. Sometimes it's a scandal, a rule change, or even technology that changes a sport dramatically. Sports of the Times draws from the archives of Times reporting to re-create and select the most important event of each calendar day, from any sport-horse racing to boxing, soccer to the Olympics and more. With three runners-up for each day, five-star selections of the most significant events in history and exclusive photos throughout, this book makes a wonderful gift, and is sure to start many conversations and debates.

forest hills stadium history: Pearl Jam FAQ Thomas E. Harkins, Bernard M. Corbett, 2016-04-01 Pearl Jam FAQ is what the British refer to as a "spanner" covering the entire arc of the band's career, from their pre-Pearl Jam days to the present. Each chapter explores a different aspect of Pearl Jam's fascinating history. You will read about the members' successes, failures, and tragedies in earlier bands. You will learn the band's origin story and the unusual manner in which they came up with a name. We will go inside the studio and analyze each of their albums in turn. We will hit the road with the band as Pearl Jam sets out to conquer Seattle, the West Coast of the United States, and then the entire world. We will watch as Pearl Jam adapts to an ever-changing media landscape where MTV, not radio, is the major power broker. You will revel in their battles with Ticketmaster and learn about the roots of their socio-political activism. In short, you will experience Pearl Jam in every imaginable context: on CD, on vinyl, on the radio, on television, on film, in videos, onstage, backstage, on the road, in the air, and at home. Written by Pearl Jam enthusiasts, Pearl Jam FAQ presents a must-have text for band devotees to devour.

forest hills stadium history: Jet , 1985-09-09 The weekly source of African American political and entertainment news.

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forest hills stadium history: Forgotten African American Firsts Hans Ostrom, J. David Macey Jr., 2023-03-16 Winner of the 2024 RUSA Outstanding Reference Award This book introduces students to African-American innovators and their contributions to art, entertainment, sports, politics, religion, business, and popular culture. While the achievements of such individuals as Barack Obama, Toni Morrison, and Thurgood Marshall are well known, many accomplished African Americans have been largely forgotten or deliberately erased from the historical record in America. This volume introduces students to those African Americans whose successes in entertainment, business, sports, politics, and other fields remain poorly understood. Dr. Charles Drew, whose pioneering research on blood transfusions saved thousands of lives during World War II; Mae Jemison, an engineer who in 1992 became the first African American woman to travel in outer space;

and Ethel Waters, the first African American to star in her own television show, are among those chronicled in Forgotten African American Firsts. With nearly 150 entries across 17 categories, this book has been carefully curated to showcase the inspiring stories of African Americans whose hard work, courage, and talent have led the course of history in the United States and around the world.

forest hills stadium history: Queen of the Court Madeleine Blais, 2023-08-15 From the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Madeleine Blais, the dramatic and colorful story of legendary tennis star and international celebrity, Alice Marble In August 1939, Alice Marble graced the cover of Life magazine, photographed by the famed Alfred Eisenstaedt. She was a glamorous worldwide celebrity, having that year won singles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles tennis titles at both Wimbledon and the US Open, then an unprecedented feat. Yet today one of America's greatest female athletes and most charismatic characters is largely forgotten. Queen of the Court places her back on center stage. Born in 1913, Marble grew up in San Francisco; her favorite sport, baseball. Given a tennis racket at age 13, she took to the sport immediately, rising to the top with a powerful, aggressive serve-and-volley style unseen in women's tennis. A champion at the height of her fame in the late 1930s, she also designed a clothing line in the off-season and sang as a performer in the Sert Room of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York to rave reviews. World War II derailed her amateur tennis career, but her life off the court was, if anything, even more eventful. She wrote a series of short books about famous women. She turned professional and joined a pro tour during the War, entertaining and inspiring soldiers and civilians alike. Ever glamorous and connected, she had a part in the 1952 Tracy and Hepburn movie Pat and Mike, and she played tennis with the likes of Charlie Chaplin, Marlene Dietrich, and her great friends, Clark Gable and Carole Lombard. However, perhaps her greatest legacy lies in her successful efforts, working largely alone, to persuade the all-white US Lawn Tennis Association to change its policy and allow African American star Althea Gibson to compete for the US championship in 1950, thereby breaking tennis's color barrier. In two memoirs, Marble also showed herself to be an at-times unreliable narrator of her own life, which Madeleine Blais navigates skillfully, especially Marble's dramatic claims of having been a spy during World War II. In Queen of the Court, the author of the bestselling In These Girls, Hope Is a Muscle recaptures a glittering life story.

forest hills stadium history: Rock and Roll Explorer Guide to New York City Mike Katz, Crispin Kott, 2018-06 From the churches and street corners of Harlem and The Bronx to the underground clubs of the East Village, New York City has been a musical mecca for generations. See where rock legends played, and visit the places that shaped the music. Take a behind-the-scenes look at how bands came together, scenes developed, and classic songs were written.

forest hills stadium history: Can't Give It Away on Seventh Avenue Christopher McKittrick, 2019-06-25 When the Rolling Stones first arrived at JFK Airport in June 1964, they hadn't even had a hit record in America. By the end of the decade, they were mobbed by packed audiences at Madison Square Garden and were the toast of New York City's media and celebrity scene. More than fifty years later, the history of New York City and the Rolling Stones have entwined and paralleled, with the group playing in nearly all of the Big Apple's legendary venues. Along the way Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, and the rest of the Stones have left an impact on the culture of the city, from the turbulent "Fun City" of the 1960s and '70s through the twenty-first century. The evolving career of the Stones has often reflected the cultural changes of the city, as the Stones and their music were the center of social and political controversies during the same era that New York faced similar challenges. Can't Give It Away on Seventh Avenue: The Rolling Stones and New York City explores the history of the group through the prism of New York. It is a highly detailed document of the dynamic and reciprocal relationship between the world's most famous band and America's most famous city as well as an absorbing chronicle of the remarkable impact the city has had on the band's music and career.

forest hills stadium history: Best Sports Stories , 1958 forest hills stadium history: American Lawn Tennis , 1922 forest hills stadium history: Turner Classic Movies Cinematic Cities: New York Christian Blauvelt, Turner Classic Movies, 2019-11-05 For armchair travelers, film buffs, tourists, and city dwellers alike, Turner Classic Moviestakes you on a one-of-a-kind tour of the cinematic sites of New York City. Highlighting the great films set in the Big Apple since the dawn of cinema to the present, Cinematic Cities: New York City is both a trove of information including behind-the-scenes stories and trivia, and a practical guide full of tips on where to go, eat, drink, shop, and sleep to follow along the path of your favorite films set in NYC. Organized by neighborhood and featuring photographs and illustrated maps throughout, this is a love letter to the city and a one-of-a-kind history of the movies. Featured films and locations include The Godfather, The Seven Year Itch, King Kong, North by Northwest, On the Town, West Side Story, When Harry Met Sally, the films of Woody Allen, and scores of others.

forest hills stadium history: Paul Simon Robert Hilburn, 2019-05-28 Acclaimed music writer Robert Hilburn's "epic" and "definitive" (Rolling Stone) biography of music icon Paul Simon, written with Simon's full participation—but without his editorial control—that "reminds us how titanic this musician is" (The Washington Post). For more than fifty years, Paul Simon has spoken to us in songs about alienation, doubt, resilience, and empathy in ways that have established him as one of the most beloved artists in American pop music history. Songs like "The Sound of Silence," "Bridge Over Troubled Water," "Still Crazy After All These Years," and "Graceland" have moved beyond the sales charts and into our cultural consciousness. But Simon is a deeply private person who has said he will not write an autobiography or talk to biographers. Finally, however, he has opened up for Robert Hilburn—for more than one hundred hours of interviews—in this "brilliant and entertaining portrait of Simon that will likely be the definitive biography" (Publishers Weekly, starred review). Over the course of three years, Hilburn conducted in-depth interviews with scores of Paul Simon's friends, family, colleagues, and others—including ex-wives Carrie Fisher and Peggy Harper, who spoke for the first time—and even penetrated the inner circle of Simon's long-reclusive muse, Kathy Chitty. The result is a deeply human account of the challenges and sacrifices of a life in music at the highest level. In the process, Hilburn documents Simon's search for artistry and his constant struggle to protect that artistry against distractions—fame, marriage, divorce, drugs, record company interference, rejection, and insecurity—that have derailed so many great pop figures. "As engaging as a lively American tune" (People), Paul Simon is a "straight-shooting tour de force...that does thorough justice to this American prophet and pop star" (USA TODAY, four out of four stars). "Read it if you like Simon; read it if you want to discover how talent unfolds itself" (Stephen King).

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