



Louisiana Hayride: Radio and Roots Music Along the Red River

By Professor of Music Tracey E W Laird

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2016. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 234 x 156 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. On a Saturday night in 1948, Hank Williams stepped onto the stage of the Louisiana Hayride and sang Lovesick Blues. Up to that point, Williams s yodeling style had been pigeon-holed as hillbilly music, cutting him off from the mainstream of popular music. Taking a chance on this untried artist, the Hayride-a radio barn dance or country music variety show like the Grand Ole Opry-not only launched Williams s career, but went on to launch the careers of well-known performers such as Jim Reeves, Webb Pierce, Kitty Wells, Johnny Cash, and Slim Whitman. Broadcast from Shreveport, Louisiana, the local station KWKH s 50,000-watt signal reached listeners in over 28 states and lured them to packed performances of the Hayride s road show. By tracing the dynamic history of the Hayride and its sponsoring station, ethnomusicologist Tracey Laird reveals the critical role that this part of northwestern Louisiana played in the development of both country music and rock and roll. Delving into the past of this Red River city, she probes the vibrant historical, cultural, and social backdrop for its...



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