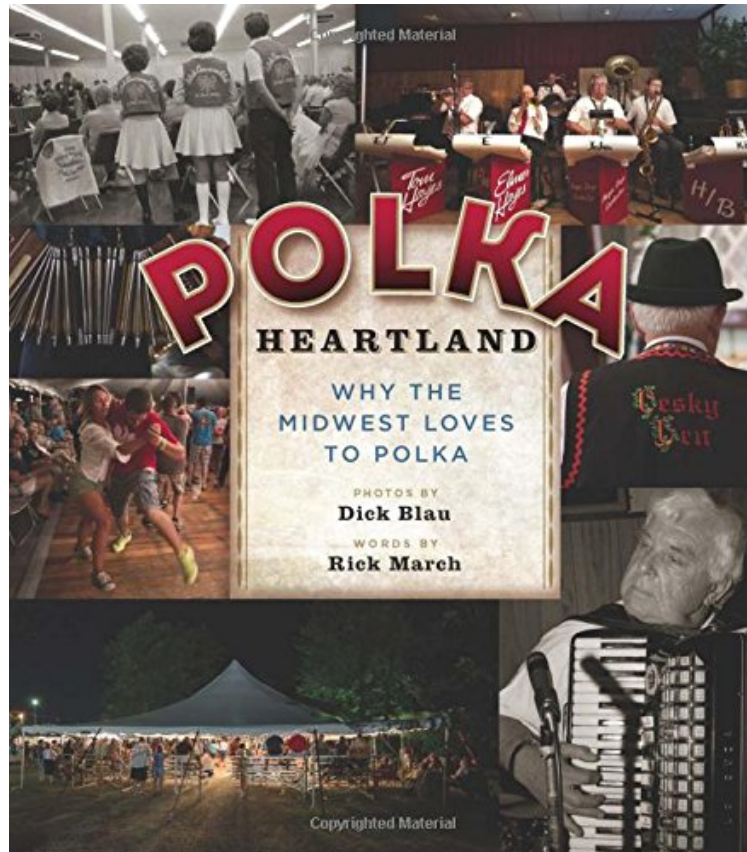


(Get free) Polka Heartland: Why the Midwest Loves to Polka

Polka Heartland: Why the Midwest Loves to Polka

Rick March, Dick Blau

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#1054038 in Books Dick Blau Rick March 2015-08-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .60 x 8.001, 1.82 #File Name: 0870207229208 pagesPolka Heartland Why the Midwest Loves to Polka | File size: 32.Mb

Rick March, Dick Blau : Polka Heartland: Why the Midwest Loves to Polka before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Polka Heartland: Why the Midwest Loves to Polka:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. and enjoyed reading how it all got startedBy Jeane PowlesI purchased this for a friend who is into Polka music. It was a big hit. Couldn't wait to read it. I also read it, and enjoyed reading how it all got started, and recognized several musicians named in the book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's polka time for my paBy Clark SchultzMy dad loves polka and he's the guy that it is hard to buy for as he has everything, this book just takes the cake and is the perfect christmas gift.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Informative and entertainingBy EasyTigerWhat this book does so well is explain how polka music came about, flourished, and how it exists today in its various styles. A lot of history is covered, yet the book is not too wordy or lengthy. The book concentrates on the more influential bands over the decades, and discusses a few of the other bands that have come after and them and still play to this day. It probably would have been easy to overload the book with band and musician data, but in my opinion, Rick March did a perfect job of condensing all of his research into a superb read.The average person on the street doesn't know polka music comes in very specific, different styles. They think it's all tubas and accordions, and it's either Polish or German depending on who you talk to. Nothing could

be farther from the truth. Therefore, I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to broaden their knowledge of polka music. Dick Blau's professional photography is second to none. His photos don't just compliment the reading; they invoke emotion. The main reading of the book is interspersed with interludes that focus on specific people, places, and things that are uniquely relevant to Midwest polka music. Whether they were Iowa farmers or Chicago foundry workers, your parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents kicked up their heels to polka music. Though the polka's heyday is long gone, the music is likely still in your blood, waiting to be tapped and enjoyed. Reading this book will take you all around the heartland of America and teach you about the music of your ancestors, and share with you the joy it brought to them and still brings to so many people today.

"Polka Heartland" captures the beat that pulses in the heart of Midwestern culture--the polka--and offers up the fascinating history of how "oompah-pah" came to be the sound of middle America. From the crowded dance tent at Pulaski Polka Days to an off-the-grid Mexican polka dance in small-town Wisconsin, "Polka Heartland" explores the people, places, and history behind the Midwest's favorite music. From polka's surprising origin story as a cutting-edge European fad to an exploration of the modern-day polka scene, author Rick March and photographer Dick Blau take readers on a joyful romp through this beloved, unique, and richly storied genre. "Polka Heartland" describes the artists, venues, instruments, and music-makers who have been pivotal to polka's popularity across the Midwest and offers six full-color photo galleries to immerse readers in today's vibrant polka scene.

Polka Heartland, a rollickingly entertaining and educational book that traces its origins as a cutting-edge European fad to its current status as a festival favorite in cities, towns and villages across Wisconsin. (Michael Popke, *The Isthmus*, November 2015) In the introduction to Polka Heartland, March (state folklorist for Wisconsin, 1983-2009) writes that he and photographer Dick Blau "aim for in-depth, visually oriented views into the active polka scenes of [their] region" and that it is a project they do not "take lightly." Blau did the photography for Charles Keil and Angeliki Keil's *Polka Happiness* (CH, Mar'93, 30-3740), and he and March have long been immersed in the Midwestern polka scene. As a result, the present title is a well-plotted survey of what polka is, where it originated, and how it made its way to the Midwest. What is more, they provide engaging synopses of the various styles of polka in the Midwest. Between chapters are "polka interludes" brief passages that address such things as the difference between a concertina and an accordion, and why beer and polka go well together. Blau's charming color photos are an excellent complement to March's eloquent prose. The selected readings and recordings listed at the end of the book will be a boon for readers curious about this dance form. (Choiceconnect.org, S. Tharp, University of Wyoming Libraries, January 2015) A unique, engaging, informed, informative, and inherently fascinating cultural history from beginning to end... (James A. Cox, *Midwest Book*, *er's Choice*, Wisconsin Bookwatch: January 2016) Rick March takes us through the small towns of Wisconsin to outline the continuing attraction polka music still holds for many people. Supplemented by excellent photographs by Dick Blau, Polka Heartland is a personal and heartfelt look at this interesting and unique popular music ... Whether it be the Pulaski Polka days or the Las Vegas Latin Night Club, ... polka plays a vital role in the lives and the identity of these communities...the enthusiasm for the music, and the recent attraction by a younger audience, suggest that the music is evolving yet again... As a music that seems to define the midwest, this is welcome news... (Professor Kenneth J. Bindas, *The Annals of Iowa*, Vol. 75, 2015) Polka Heartland serves a dual purpose. It is both a coffee table book that would be enjoyed by a general audience interested in the photographs and vignettes of the musicians and dancers, and a solid academic study of polka, particularly as seen in Wisconsin but also strongly applicable to polka throughout the United States. [It] not only fill gaps in scholarly materials that document the traditional and popular music of the Upper Midwest, but more generally represent valuable additions to the literature on American music. (Carl Rahkonen, *Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Quarterly Journal of the Music Library Association*, June 2017) .