

A Celebratory Ode to Redbone: A Timeless Treasure from 1939 to Present



Come and Get Your Love: A Celebratory Ode to Redbone (1939-Present) by Jim Hoffmann

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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In the annals of American music, Redbone stands as a beacon of creativity, cultural fusion, and enduring legacy. From their humble beginnings in the late 1960s to their continued influence today, Redbone's unique blend of Native American, folk, and psychedelic rock has captivated audiences for generations.

This article delves into the captivating story of Redbone, exploring their musical journey from 1939 to the present day. We'll trace their rise to fame, their groundbreaking achievements, and the enduring impact they've had on the music world.

The Early Years: 1939-1965

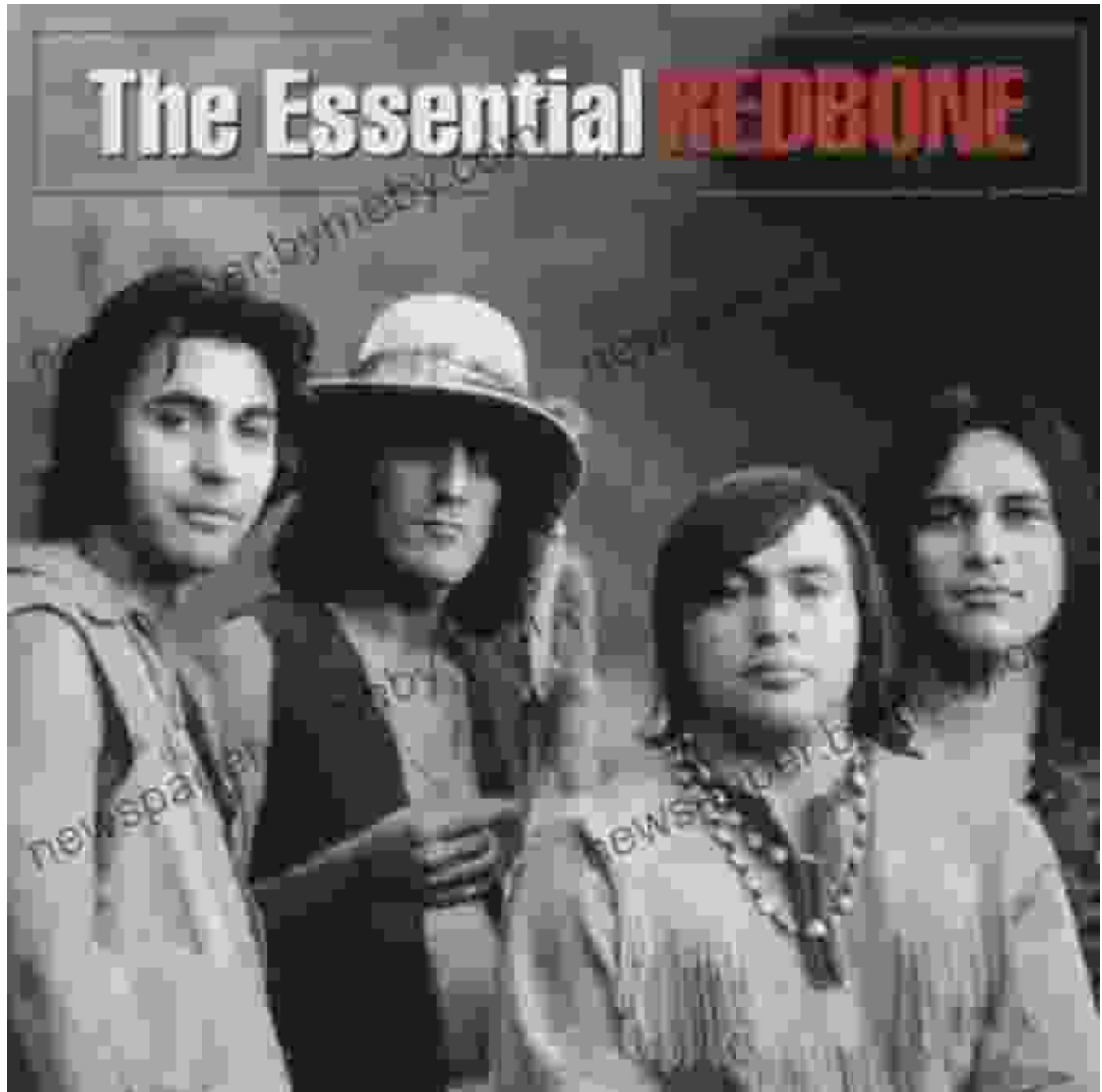
The roots of Redbone can be traced back to the childhood of brothers Pat and Lolly Vegas in the small town of Redbone, KY. Born into the Lumbee Native American tribe, Pat and Lolly grew up surrounded by the rich musical traditions of their heritage.

As teenagers, the Vegas brothers formed a band called The Redbones, inspired by the name of their hometown. They played local gigs and developed their own unique sound, blending Native American melodies with folk and rock influences.

The Rise to Fame: 1965-1970

In 1965, The Redbones caught the attention of music producer Gabriel Mekler, who signed them to his Elektra Records label. The band's self-titled debut album, released in 1969, was a critical and commercial success.

Redbone's music was unlike anything else on the charts at the time. Their songs combined the haunting melodies of Pat Vegas's vocals with the driving rhythms of Lolly Vegas's drums and the psychedelic guitar work of Peter DePoe.



The album's breakout hit was "Maggie," a haunting ballad about a Native American woman and her lost love. The song reached the Top 40 on the

Billboard Hot 100 and became an enduring classic.

Redbone's success continued with their second album, "Potlatch," released in 1970. The album featured more of their signature blend of Native American and psychedelic rock, and it spawned the hit single "Witch Queen of New Orleans."

The Height of Success: 1970-1973

In the early 1970s, Redbone was at the height of their popularity. They toured extensively, playing to sold-out crowds across the United States and Europe.

The band's third album, "Message from a Drum," released in 1971, was their most successful to date. The album featured the hit single "The Witch Queen of New Orleans," which reached the Top 20 on the Billboard Hot 100.



Redbone's music was praised for its originality, its haunting melodies, and its powerful social commentary. The band became known for their outspoken advocacy for Native American rights and their commitment to preserving their cultural heritage.

Later Years and Legacy

In the mid-1970s, Redbone's popularity began to decline as the music industry shifted towards disco and other genres. The band continued to

record and perform, but they never achieved the same level of commercial success as they had in the early 1970s.

Despite the changing musical landscape, Redbone's legacy has endured. Their music has been praised by critics and musicians alike, and their influence can be heard in the work of countless contemporary artists.



In recent years, there has been a renewed interest in Redbone's music. The band's albums have been reissued, and they have been featured in documentaries and other media.

Pat Vegas, the last surviving member of the original Redbone lineup, continues to perform and record music. He is a tireless advocate for Native

American rights and a passionate ambassador for Redbone's legacy.

Redbone is more than just a band. They are a living embodiment of the rich musical heritage of Native America. Their music has inspired generations of listeners and has played a vital role in shaping the sound of American music.

From their humble beginnings in the late 1960s to their enduring influence today, Redbone has left an indelible mark on the music world. Their music is a timeless treasure, a celebration of Native American culture, and a reminder of the power of music to connect us all.



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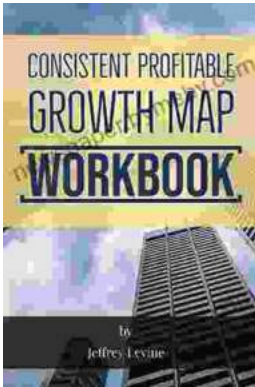
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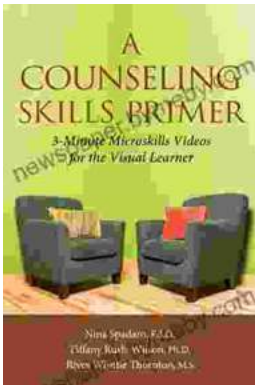
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