



Carolina Bluegrass: A High Lonesome History

Gail Wilson-Giarratano PhD, Pat Ahrens

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Carolina Bluegrass: A High Lonesome History Gail Wilson-Giarratano PhD, Pat Ahrens In the Carolinas, bluegrass is more than music—it's a way of life. The origins of the genre date back to the earliest frontier settlements, and banjo music appeared at dances in Greenville, South Carolina, as early as 1780. The genre was essential to socialization in the textile mills of both states. Old-time music of the Blue Ridge Mountains heavily influenced the sound. Bill Monroe, considered by many to be the father of bluegrass, began his recording career in Charlotte in 1936. Many of the most popular bands, such as the Hired Hands and Briarhoppers, regularly performed live on local television stations in Columbia, Spartanburg and Charlotte. Today, bluegrass festivals fill local calendars across the region. Author Gail Wilson-Giarratano uses interviews and the historic record to tell this unique and compelling story.



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