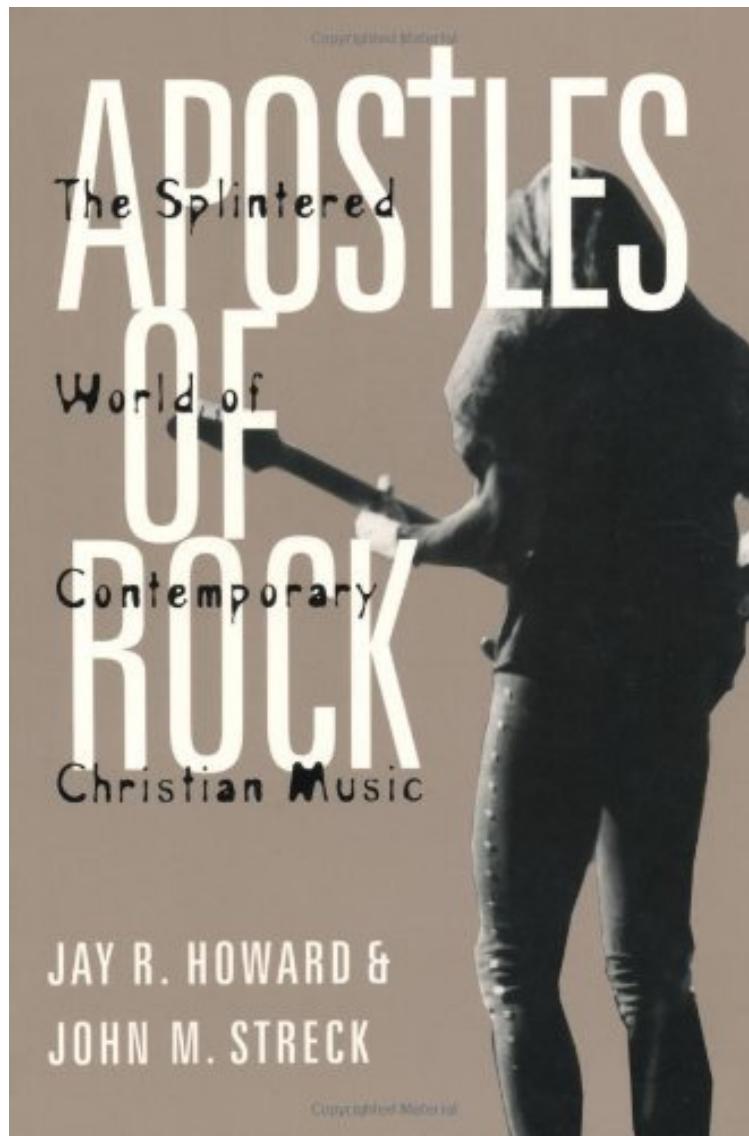


Apostles of Rock: The Splintered World of Contemporary Christian Music

Jay R. Howard, John M. Streck
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Jay R. Howard, John M. Streck : Apostles of Rock: The Splintered World of Contemporary Christian Music
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Apostles of Rock: The Splintered World of Contemporary Christian Music:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book; needs to be updatedBy pjp73This is a wonderful study of the world of contemporary Christian music - at least through the late 1990s (my only reason for four stars). The authors give a good framework for understanding the different styles in this broad genre. They also mention the

frustrations of some Christian artists who did not want to be branded as Christian artists as that might pigeonhole them and limit them artistically. In my opinion, the book suffers from one main thing: it needs to be updated. Since it's copyright date is 1999, it came out prior to the digital music boom and its (and the Internet's) significant impact on all aspects of the music business, including CCM. Many of the frustrations mentioned by artists in the book have been effectively dealt with since the book came out. Hopefully, the authors will update this important book. 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Good history of little studied world

By A Customer

Apostles of rock is an interesting look at the world of Contemporary Christian Music. It is part history, part study of the tension between Christ and culture. The authors try to show how Christian musicians attempt to reach a wide audience and still remain true to their Christian ideals. The book is well researched and enjoyable to read. I would recommend this to students of modern Christian culture and artists trying to balance their faith and the world of entertainment

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Thorough, Insightful, and Intelligent

By J.D. Osborn

I came across this book while searching for something else and it peaked my interest. Once I started it I couldn't put it down. It is very intelligently written. It is a thorough, well-researched, and unbiased look at Contemporary Christian Music and the artists who create it. It brought many things I already knew about it (and many things I had forgotten) into a clear and academic perspective and taught me many, many new things as well. It is so information-rich I intend on reading it again, if not many more times.

Apostles of Rock is the first objective, comprehensive examination of the contemporary Christian music phenomenon. Some see CCM performers as ministers or musical missionaries, while others define them as entertainers or artists. This popular musical movement clearly evokes a variety of responses concerning the relationship between Christ and culture. The resulting tensions have splintered the genre and given rise to misunderstanding, conflict, and an obsessive focus on self-examination. As Christian stars Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, DC Talk, and Sixpence None the Richer climb the mainstream charts, Jay Howard and John Streck talk about CCM as an important movement and show how this musical genre relates to a larger popular culture. They map the world of CCM by bringing together the perspectives of the people who perform, study, market, and listen to this music. By examining CCM lyrics, interviews, performances, web sites, and chat rooms, Howard and Streck uncover the religious and aesthetic tensions within the CCM community. Ultimately, the conflict centered around Christian music reflects the modern religious community's understanding of evangelicalism and the community's complex relationship with American popular culture.