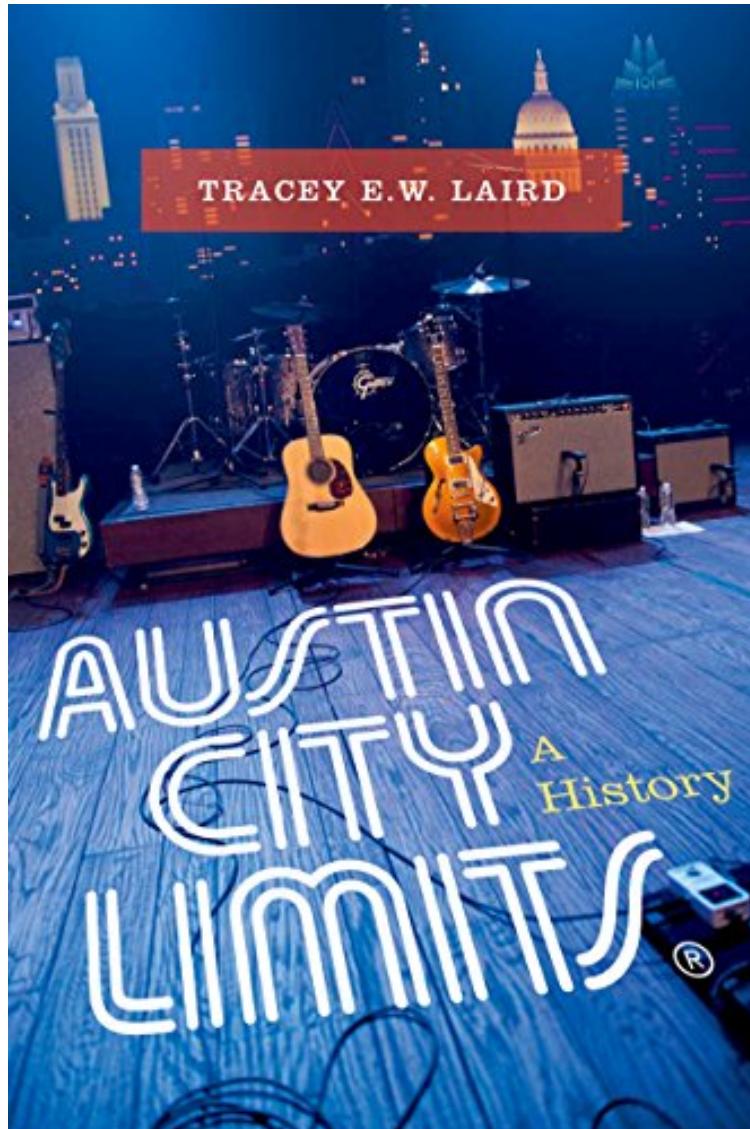


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Austin City Limits: A History

Tracey E. W. Laird

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Tracey E. W. Laird : Austin City Limits: A History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Austin City Limits: A History:

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Austin City Limits is the longest running musical showcase in the history of television, and it still captivates audiences forty years after its debut on the air. From Willie Nelson's legendary pilot show and his fourteen magical episodes running through the years to Season 35, to mythical performances of BB King and Stevie Ray Vaughn, to repeat appearances from Chet Atkins, Bonnie Raitt and Ray Charles, and recent shows with Mumford Sons, Arcade Fire and The Decemberists, the show has defined popular roots music and indie rock. This is why country rocker Miranda Lambert -- relatively unknown when she taped a show almost a decade ago -- gushed to the studio audience, "Now I know I have arrived!" *Austin City Limits: A History* tells this remarkable story. With unprecedented access behind the scenes at the tapings of shows with Gillian Welch and David Rawlings, Mos Def, Wilco, and many more, author Tracey Laird tells the story of this landmark musical showcase whose history spans dramatic changes in the world of television, the expansion of digital media, and the ways in which we experience music. Beginning as a simple weekly broadcast, it is today a multifaceted "brand" in contemporary popular music, existing simultaneously as a program available for streaming, a presence on Twitter and other social media, a major music festival, and a state-of-the-art performance venue. Laird explores the ways in which the show's evolution has driven, and been driven by, both that of Austin as the "Live Music Capital of the World," and of U.S. public media as a major player in the dissemination and sponsorship of music and culture. Engagingly written and packed with anecdotes and insights from everyone from the show's producers and production staff to the musicians themselves, *Austin City Limits: A History* gives us the best seat in the house for this illuminating look at a singular presence in American popular music. Timed to publish with the airing of *Austin City Limits* 2014 -- the 40th anniversary celebratory broadcast featuring an all-star lineup of musicians including the Foo Fighters, Willie Nelson, Sheryl Crow, and others -- here is a book for all fans of this beloved music institution.

"Tracing the history of ACL alongside the cultural changes that have helped shape Austin's current scene, [Tracey] Laird presents an informed and lively discussion that legitimizes Austin's claim as the 'live music capital of the world.' A slim though impressive narrative history that will be a welcome addition to any audiophile's bookshelf." --Kirkus

s "Laird's slim but entertaining volume chronicles not only the history of the television show itself but also its offshoots, including its music festival... Laird's fine book offers an insider's look as she examines the people, both famous and obscure, behind [Austin City Limits]." --Booklist "The book is a laudatory and reverent examination of the television show's legacy... a more fitting tribute to such an important American musical touchstone could hardly be imagined." --PopMatters "Drawing on interviews with a broad range of musicians and producers, Tracey W. Laird vividly chronicles the history of Austin City Limits as well as the impact it has had on the ways we listen to music in her elegant cultural history." --No Depression, Best Music Books of 2014 "Tracey Laird's history does [Austin City Limit's] vibrant legacy justice... Laird excels at profiling the personalities behind the scenes, tenures that span decades. Even then, "Austin City Limits: A History" may be most elucidating when touching on the business side of the program amid the public television turmoil of the Nineties and its global branding by ACL Fest." --Austin Chronicle

About the Author Tracey E. W. Laird is Professor of Music and Chair at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia. She is the author of *Louisiana Hayride: Radio and Roots Music Along the Red River* and co-editor with Kip Lornell of *Shreveport Sounds in Black and White*.