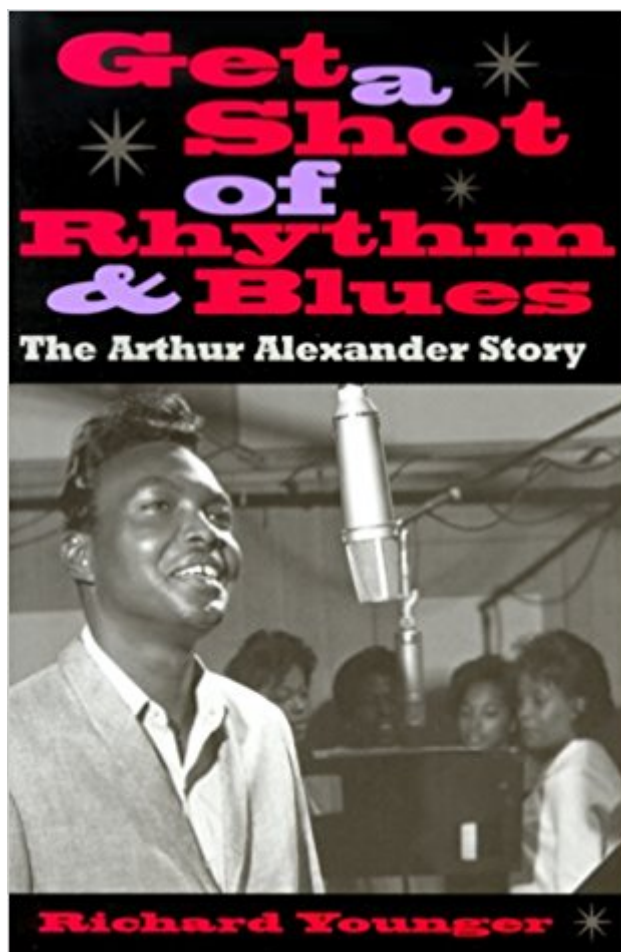


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# Get A Shot Of Rhythm And Blues: The Arthur Alexander Story



## Synopsis

The first book-length biography of an influential country/soul legend whose songs have been recorded by the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and Bob Dylan. *Get a Shot of Rhythm and Blues* chronicles the rise, fall, and rebirth of Arthur Alexander, an African American singer-songwriter whose music influenced many of the rock and soul musicians of the 1960s. Although his name is not well known today, Alexander's musical legacy is vast. His 1962 song "You Better Move On" was the first hit to emerge from the fledgling Muscle Shoals FAME studio in Alabama, and his fusion of country and soul and his heartfelt vocals on such songs as "Anna (Go to Him)" and "Every Day I Have to Cry" were revered by musicians including the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and Bob Dylan, all of whom recorded his songs. Alexander's story is a tragic one, with a brief, redemptive finale. His meteoric rise after the release of "You Better Move On" gave way to lean years caused both by his drug and alcohol abuse and by the mishandling of his career by producers and managers. In 1977, he quit the music business, but his music lived on. In 1992, Alexander returned to the studio and recorded the critically praised album *Lonely Just Like Me*. Just three months after the album's release in March 1993, he suffered a heart attack in the offices of his music publisher in Nashville and died three days later. In telling Alexander's story, Richard Younger captures the burgeoning music scenes in Muscle Shoals and Nashville during the 1960s and 1970s and recovers the life of a fascinating musician whose influence was international. Younger's account is enriched by his interviews with more than 200 artists, family members, and friends--such as Rick Hall, Billy Sherrill, Charlie McCoy, Chuck Jackson, Gerry Marsden, and Kris Kristofferson--and includes an abundance of never-before-seen photographs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"American music is full of unsung heroes, but none is more unsung than Arthur Alexander. Here, finally, he gets his due." — Charles K. Wolfe, author of *The Life and Legend of Leadbelly* and *In Close Harmony: The Story of the Louvin Brothers* "If the Beatles ever wanted a sound it was R&B. That's what we used to listen to, what we used to like, and what we wanted to be like. Black, that was basically it. Arthur Alexander." — Paul McCartney

Richard Younger has written for the New York Times, New York, MOJO, Reuters News Service, and numerous music magazines. He is also a singer/songwriter whose album *Blue Horses* was released in 1989. Younger lives with his wife, Barbara, in Woodside, New York.

A great story on one of America's almost forgotten R & B Singers who influenced the Beatles and Rolling Stones, as well as many of the other UK Artists. Arthur's recording of *You Better Move On*, written by Arthur Alexander / Donnie Fritts in Muscle Shoals, AL was also a hit again, by the Rolling Stones in 1965, Ana, was recorded and also a hit for the Beatles in 1965 or 66. Arthur's hit is still my favorite, but I also love the Stones hit.

Great look a Great Singer Songwriter who could not play and instrument! One of the lesser know Rock N Roll Giants!

Arthur Alexander was always a mystery man - till now! Richard Younger's biography of one of the most distinctive and influential black singers of the 60s sheds sympathetic illumination upon the life, the music - and the demons - of this woefully underrated singer/songwriter (the only writer to have songs cut by The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and Bob Dylan). AA's hugely-satisfying vocals married to his distinctive soul-country arrangements (his reputation was founded on just four 1962 Dot-label singles) emerged moments before the UK beat boom swept the globe and was crucial in its influence on the Beatles and the Stones. Younger's book explains how it all came about, taking us on a roller-coaster ride through AA's life of musical and personal extremes. With a series of revealing interviews he transports us to the heart of the Alabama music scene and charts Arthur's role in the foundation of the Muscle Shoals/Fame recording empires. Whether you're a long-term

Alexander devotee, a soul music buff, or simply a Sixties survivor, then you'll find this unputdown-able tome a tonic that'll have you listening with a fresh ear to those perennial Alexander classics.

It was in 1985 at a barbecue that author Richard Younger heard the record that literally changed his life and was the inspiration of his fine biography. That record was Arthur Alexander's "Get a Shot of Rhythm and Soul"...and now 15 years on arrives "Get a Shot of Rhythm of Blues" Richard Younger's fascinating in-depth saga of Arthur Alexander. Mr Younger's biography exhibits a real affection and understanding of Arthur's unique music..call it country soul if you wish. It's that and the readiness to investigate the darker and sadder aspects of Arthur's personal world that elevate this book above its peers. The exhaustive research that Mr Younger has undertaken combined with the many anecdotes from Arthur and the people who were close to him make "Get a Shot of Rhythm and Blues" the definitive account of this gifted but mysterious man. Also Mr Younger's book contains the most detailed explanation of the genesis of the Muscle Shoals sound to date. Lovers of Peter Guralnick's "Sweet Soul Music" need to read this book. A true classic of its kind.

After being a fan of Arthur Alexander in the early sixties he seemed to drop out of sight, occasional records but very little else seemed to appear, this book puts the record straight and fills in all those gaps. It also goes a long way to answering the reasons that he did not make it to the position in the music scene that his undoubted talent deserved. The book is very well written by Richard Younger who obviously felt very deeply about the subject, he deals with the problems that AA encountered in his music career and his private life. It was sad that at the very time that AA was beginning to make a comeback and he was again showing the talent that was always there he was taken from us. He had become religious during the last few years and this seemed to have a calming effect on him and I am sure that he would have again had big selling records. Thank you Richard for an insight into the life of Arthur Alexander through the highs and lows.

This is a great book that provides clear and concise insight into the life of Arthur Alexander. The story behind the singer, the songwriter and a true influence behind some of the greatest figures of rock and roll. This story should be made into a movie so everyone can learn about this unsung hero. Richard Younger has researched Arthur's life, the people he affected directly, and the soul of this talented man. **READ THIS BOOK AND LEARN THE STORY OF A MAN WHO DESERVES TO BE RECOGNIZED AND REMEMBERED!!!**

Fans of soul music will find Richard Younger's *Get A Shot Of Rhythm And Blues* to be a fine biography of one Arthur Alexander, a singer/songwriter who may not be well known by name, but whose songs influenced the 1960s rock musicians. A fine coverage of his life and achievements is presented in a lively survey of soul and rock and roll music.

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