

Foreword Review MUSIC

## **Banjo: An Illustrated History**

## **Bob Carlin**

Backbeat Books (Jun 7, 2016) Hardcover \$35.00 (256pp) 978-1-4950-1124-5

This unassuming instrument arrived in the American South with West African slaves in the 1600s and lifted the spirits of countless plantation gatherings right up till the time that thoroughly uncivil war put an end to legal enslavement. The more recent path the banjo took to celebrity status in American country music is the fascinating story detailed in *Banjo: An Illustrated History*. All the important types and makes of the instrument are detailed, including the marvelous work being done by today's craftsmen, but the stunningly rich photographs are what will steal hearts.

## MATT SUTHERLAND (Summer 2016)

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