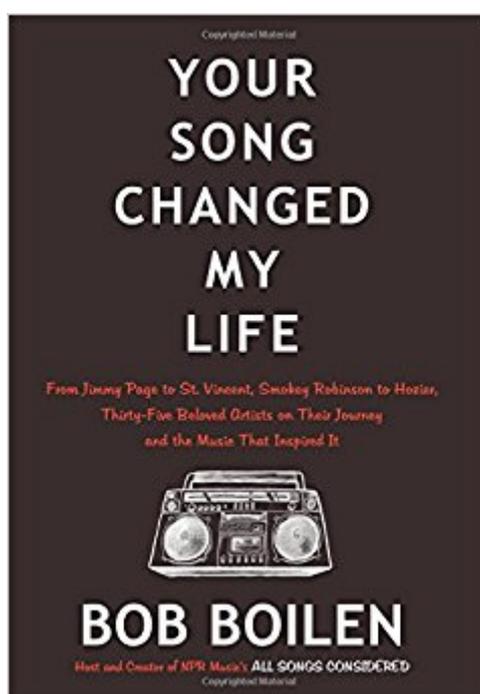


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# Your Song Changed My Life: From Jimmy Page To St. Vincent, Smokey Robinson To Hozier, Thirty-Five Beloved Artists On Their Journey And The Music That Inspired It



## Synopsis

"Bob Boilen's book gets at something real and rare about the power of music." —New York Times Book Review

From the beloved host and creator of NPR's *All Songs Considered* and *Tiny Desk Concerts* comes an essential oral history of modern music, told in the voices of iconic and up-and-coming musicians, including Dave Grohl, Jimmy Page, Michael Stipe, Carrie Brownstein, Smokey Robinson, and Jeff Tweedy, among others — published in association with NPR Music.

Is there a unforgettable song that changed your life? NPR's renowned music authority Bob Boilen posed this question to some of today's best-loved musical legends and rising stars. In *Your Song Changed My Life*, Jimmy Page (Led Zeppelin), St. Vincent, Jónsi (Sigur Rós), Justin Vernon (Bon Iver), Cat Power, David Byrne (Talking Heads), Dave Grohl (Nirvana, Foo Fighters), Jeff Tweedy (Wilco), Jenny Lewis, Carrie Brownstein (Portlandia, Sleater-Kinney), Yusuf Islam (Cat Stevens), Colin Meloy (The Decemberists), Trey Anastasio (Phish), Jackson Browne, Valerie June, Philip Glass, James Blake, and other artists reflect on pivotal moments that inspired their work.

For Wilco's Jeff Tweedy, it was discovering his sister's 45 of The Byrds' "Turn, Turn, Turn." • A young St. Vincent's life changed the day a box of CDs literally fell off a delivery truck in front of her house. Cat Stevens was transformed when he heard John Lennon cover "Twist and Shout." • These are the momentous yet unmarked events that have shaped these and many other musical talents, and ultimately the sound of modern music.

A diverse collection of personal experiences, both ordinary and extraordinary, *Your Song Changed My Life* illustrates the ways in which music is revived, restored, and revolutionized. It is also a testament to the power of music in our lives, and an inspiration for future artists and music lovers.

Amazing contributors include: Jimmy Page (Led Zeppelin), Carrie Brownstein (Sleater-Kinney, Portlandia, Wild Flag), Smokey Robinson, David Byrne (Talking Heads), St. Vincent, Jeff Tweedy (Wilco), James Blake, Colin Meloy (The Decemberists), Trey Anastasio (Phish), Jenny Lewis (Rilo Kiley), Dave Grohl (Nirvana, Foo Fighters), Yusuf Islam (Cat Stevens), Sturgill Simpson, Justin Vernon (Bon Iver), Cat Power, Jackson Browne, Michael Stipe (R.E.M.), Philip Glass, Jónsi (Sigur Rós), Hozier, Regina Carter, Conor Oberst (Bright Eyes, and others), Courtney Barnett, Chris Thile (Nickel Creek, Punch Brothers), Leon Bridges, Sharon Van Etten, and many more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I don't even consider myself a "music buff" but this was so inspiring, educational, and just entertaining as well. I learned about artists I had never heard of, stories from my favorite musicians I'd have never known, and the history of music in the US overall. Fantastic.

Wonderful! I started reading an interview a day at bedtime with this book on my nightstand. I ended up binge-reading it by day three. The interviews with artists unknown to me were as fascinating as the ones I did know. The conversations inspired me to seek out new music and to revel in the familiar. It's an easy, entertaining and illuminating read. I can't wait for volume two!

Lovers of music and story will enjoy this book which brings the two together. Those of us who have experienced the life-changing power of the right song at the right time (or vice versa) resonate with stories like this.

After a little debate, I added a star to give it four rather than three. My own reaction was really "Meh, it's okay," but I suspect that's a bit harsh. The author was unfamiliar to me, as well as the majority of the musicians he covers. To people who have listened to his NPR program "All Songs Considered," I'd guess the stories would be much more interesting. This is probably a great guide for those who live in big cities where it would be easy to find concerts by new artists (and whose tastes are fairly eclectic).

As I post this review there a bunch of reviews posted but all are either the print edition or the Kindle

version of Bob Boilen's book. This is a review of the AUDIO CD version, which I feel is the best way to experience this book. Boilen is, after all, a radio person. He has been with NPR for about 25 years and hosts both "All Songs Considered" and the "NPR Tiny Desk Concerts". (One of the great things I discovered while listening to Boilen read this book (yes, it's him not some unknown reader) is that the Tiny Desk Concerts are not named that because he has a tiny desk. We learn in the first chapter "where Boilen tells us about his growing up in the Boston area" that his first involvement in music was forming his own band (named, guess what?, The Tiny Desk Band!). Then it's on with the stories of interviews that he has done with artists like Jeff Tweedy of Wilco and Cat Stevens, among others, as to what song changed THEIR life. (Answers for Tweedy and Stevens are The Byrds' "Turn, Turn, Turn" and The Beatles' "Twist and Shout" respectively). The Audio Cd is 8 1/2 hours long but make for great listening in the car during a commute or on a drive. (I took my copy on vacation). I've been a big fan of audio books for almost 40 years and love hearing a performer or radio person read their own writing. And, so, if you know Boilen from his NPR programs, you'll really enjoy the audio version. By the way, Blackstone keeps each track to 3 minutes so you can always find your place. I hope you found this review both informative and helpful. Steve Ramm "Anything Phonographic"

Bob Boilen is the perfect person to write this book. He approaches each chapter with respect for the interviewee and subject matter. No matter your taste, there is something in the book you will love. Even the most serious fan will learn something new. In "Your Song..." we are allowed in on intimate conversations with our favorite artists.

If you've ever listened to All Songs Considered on NPR you know that Bob Boilen loves music to the extreme. He doesn't settle for mere entertainment; he digs deep and gives listeners music that challenges and informs. He's one of my most trusted curators of anything musical. He brings the same ethos to this book. Do you love music? You'll love this!

too many musicians I don't know and the stories of them are too short to develop any kind of empathy or feelings for.

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