



The Devil's Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling (Vanderbilt/Country Music Foundation Press)

Charles Wolfe

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

The Devil's Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling (Vanderbilt/Country Music Foundation Press)

Charles Wolfe

The Devil's Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling (Vanderbilt/Country Music Foundation Press) Charles Wolfe

A unique and illuminating overview of the traditions of Southern fiddling, covering the key performers and compositions that defined that genre during its golden age--from the 1920s to the 1950s--and that continue to influence popular music today.

It was called "the devil's box" because the instrument was thought to be sinful to play. Yet in spite of (or perhaps partially because of) that stigma, the fiddle has long been one of America's favorite instruments.

Easily portable, stylistically versatile, and possessing an enchanting timbre, it accompanied the European settlers across America. In the 1800s, the fiddle entertained on the battlefield and on the campaign trail. When country music made its first appearance on records in the 1920s, fiddlers called the tune. To this day, the fiddle remains a distinctive element of country music, and fiddlers like Alison Krauss and Mark O'Connor are among the music's biggest stars and most innovative artists.

The key players and favorite tunes in the commercial emergence of Southern fiddling in the first half of the twentieth century are the focus of this lucid and engaging study. Among the lively portraits that emerge in *The Devil's Box* are those of:

Eck Robertson, the audacious Texas fiddler who jump-started the country music recording industry in 1922 by showing up unannounced at the studios of Victor Records and demanding to be recorded;
Uncle Jimmy Thompson, the feisty, white-bearded, rural fiddler whose appearance on radio station WSM in Nashville inaugurated the Grand Ole Opry;
Clayton McMichen, the dazzlingly talented but disgruntled fiddler's fiddler who preferred jazz to country music and who could never live down his early years in country music's first supergroup, the Skillet Lickers;
and
Bob Wills, who popularized western swing by combining fiddle music with the sounds of big band swing and who never abandoned the fiddle music of his youth, even after dance music became far more lucrative.

Elsewhere, Wolfe discusses the background of such famous fiddle tunes as "Black Mountain Rag" and "Over the Waves," tracing their meandering and curious paths to widespread popularity, and explains how Stephen Vincent Benet's 1925 classic poem "The Mountain Whippoorwill" was inspired by country fiddler Lowe Stokes winning an Atlanta fiddle contest in 1924.

Drawing on such seldom-tapped resources as small regional newspapers, personal correspondence, and rare interviews with the fiddlers themselves as well as their families, Wolfe conjures up vivid portraits of the individuals who fashioned this distinctly American music. Along the way, he places the fiddlers and their music in a rich historical context, illuminating the threads that connect country music to blues, jazz, folk, and classical music--and, indeed, to the history of America itself.

Co-published with the Country Music Foundation Press

 **Download** [The Devil's Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling \(Van ...pdf](#)

 **Read Online** [The Devil's Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling \(V ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Devil's Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling (Vanderbilt/Country Music Foundation Press) Charles Wolfe

From reader reviews:

Darren Meekins:

The book *The Devil's Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling* (Vanderbilt/Country Music Foundation Press) give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can to be your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make looking at a book *The Devil's Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling* (Vanderbilt/Country Music Foundation Press) being your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You may know everything if you like start and read a e-book *The Devil's Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling* (Vanderbilt/Country Music Foundation Press). Kinds of book are several. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this book?

Joseph Haner:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also become a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book which improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with knowledge books but if you want really feel happy read one with theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. The particular *The Devil's Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling* (Vanderbilt/Country Music Foundation Press) is kind of reserve which is giving the reader capricious experience.

Lorene Lord:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the spare time or they will get wide range of stress from both daily life and work. So , once we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to an individual of course your answer may unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is actually *The Devil's Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling* (Vanderbilt/Country Music Foundation Press).

Jennifer Lewis:

Is it a person who having spare time subsequently spend it whole day by watching television programs or just lying on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This *The Devil's Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling* (Vanderbilt/Country Music Foundation Press) can be the response, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are consequently out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a geek activity. So what these textbooks have than the others?

Download and Read Online The Devil's Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling (Vanderbilt/Country Music Foundation Press) Charles Wolfe #PZ7E1VU8M9O

Read The Devil's Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling (Vanderbilt/Country Music Foundation Press) by Charles Wolfe for online ebook

The Devil's Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling (Vanderbilt/Country Music Foundation Press) by Charles Wolfe Free PDF download, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Devil's Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling (Vanderbilt/Country Music Foundation Press) by Charles Wolfe books to read online.

Online The Devil's Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling (Vanderbilt/Country Music Foundation Press) by Charles Wolfe ebook PDF download

The Devil's Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling (Vanderbilt/Country Music Foundation Press) by Charles Wolfe Doc

The Devil's Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling (Vanderbilt/Country Music Foundation Press) by Charles Wolfe Mobipocket

The Devil's Box: Masters of Southern Fiddling (Vanderbilt/Country Music Foundation Press) by Charles Wolfe EPub