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## Florida Soul: From Ray Charles to KC and the Sunshine Band

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This book is a fascinating read and one that has very helpful reference resources. For anyone interested in the Gullah and their cultural development on Sapelo Island, I recommend this book.

There is a number of black and white illustrations helpful to one wanting to see the early Gullah peoples' lifestyles and family homes and schools. Acknowledgement begin on page 215 and the Index continues to page 279. This is a good selection for an academic library or a Southern history collection.

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**Florida Soul: From Ray Charles to KC and the Sunshine Band.** John Capouya. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2017. ISBN 13: 978-0-8130-5452-0. \$24.95 408 p.



I admit to a fascination with soul music, and John Capouya's new book "Florida Soul: From Ray Charles to KC and the Sunshine Band" grabbed my attention. I quickly learned Florida claims many talented musicians in "the world of R&B, soul, funk, and disco".

As I began to scan and enjoy the chapters of Capouya's book, I was captivated by the personal stories of the lives of musicians like Ray Charles, Noble "Thin Man" Watts, Sam Moore, James Purify, Linda Lydell, and Jackie Moore. Each life sketch is written to amaze and delight us. As readers we gain insights into the deep and unique talents of these famous Florida men and women. Along with revealed personality characteristics that are humorous and engaging, Capouya spotlights life stories with the personal photographs and shots of "hang outs", performance places, and recording sessions.

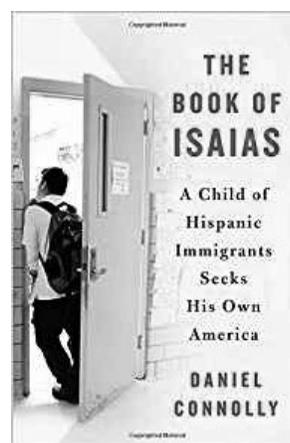
Capouya's story telling style introduces us to 20 Florida musicians and their fellow artists. You will learn the poignant life story of Ray Charles spread over Greenville, Jacksonville, Orlando and Tampa. Another story to enjoy is of Harry Wayne Casey of KC and the Sunshine Band who credits his love of music and the beginnings of his life journey to his mother, a Miami housewife. "She "loved to dance and was such a presence in Overtown clubs that

famous musicians came to their home to talk and visit with her. His father, the owner of a furniture store, had no interest in music of any kind."(p.320).

I recommend this book for academic, public and music libraries. A total of 396 pages contain an Epilogue, Acknowledgments, Notes, a Bibliography and an Index. Very good fact filled and strong references tool for researchers.

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**The Book of Isaias: A Child of Hispanic Immigrants Seeks His Own America.** Daniel Connolly. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2016. ISBN: 9781250083067 (hardback). \$26.99. 258 p.



Isaias Ramos is a dreamer. Eighteen, a senior in high school, he dreams of his future and what lies ahead. A smart student with good grades, determination, and an insatiable curiosity, he's the perfect candidate for college. But Isaias is also a DREAMER, his standing recognized by the failed Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2010. As a child of undocumented Mexican immigrants who came to the United States when he was seven, he has no way to obtain citizenship in the only country he has ever really known.

Daniel Connolly, author of *The Book of Isaias: A Child of Hispanic Immigrants*, gives these children a voice, tracking the life of one undocumented Latino high school senior in Memphis, Tennessee. Connolly begins in the summer of 2012, nine months before graduation, and narrates Isaias' story through the summer of 2015. A journalist by profession and Memphis native, Connolly presents a compelling case for these undocumented youths and is unsparing in describing the harsh choices these students face when confronting their future.

Isaias is a talented teen. Captain of the school trivia team, member of a rock band and gifted student, Isaias' teachers urge him to apply to top tier universities, believing his grades and scholastic scores are high enough to win