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### **Biographies of Country Music Stars**

To order any of these titles, contact the library by email, phone, mail, in person, or order through our [online catalog](#). Most titles can be [downloaded from BARD](#).

#### **A Personal Stand: Observations and Opinions from a Freethinking Roughneck by Trace Adkins with Keith and Kent Zimmerman**

Read by Joe Wilson

8 hours, 25 minutes

Country-and-western singer and runner-up on Donald Trump's television show *Celebrity Apprentice* explains his philosophy of life. Describes his small-town upbringing and discusses his love of singing, beginning in church choirs and culminating with success in Nashville. Advocates traditional values, personal responsibility, and hard work. Some strong language. 2007.

[Download from BARD: A Personal Stand: Observations and Opinions...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066738

#### **Whisperin' Bill Anderson: an Unprecedented Life in Country Music by Bill Anderson with Peter Cooper**

Read by Bill Anderson

9 hours, 58 minutes

An inductee into the Country Music Hall of Fame shares stories of his life and career. Once one of the most prolific songwriters in country music, by the 1980s Anderson was sure his career had dried up. Late in life, he began cowriting songs with a new generation of artists. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2016.

[Download from BARD: Whisperin' Bill Anderson: an Unprecedented Life...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB091051

### **Chet Atkins: Me and My Guitars by Chet Atkins**

Read by Robert Sams

4 hours, 5 minutes

Autobiography written with longtime friends the Cochran brothers. The guitarist recalls his career, beginning with his early days in Tennessee and Georgia, by focusing on guitars he's had over the years. Describes the evolution of his guitars' construction and includes anecdotes about favorite instruments.

Introduction by Jerry Reed.

[Download from BARD: Chet Atkins: Me and My Guitars](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB059270

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR15715](#)

Also available in braille BR015715

### **Rhinestone Cowboy: an Autobiography by Glen Campbell with Tom Carter**

Read by Gregory Gorton

8 hours, 7 minutes

Campbell recalls his rise from an impoverished Arkansas childhood through working as an on-demand studio musician to becoming a recording star in the 1960s and hosting his own television show in the 1970s. He discusses the negative impact of drugs, alcohol, and womanizing on his life and the spiritual rebirth that ultimately saved him.

[Download from BARD: Rhinestone Cowboy: an Autobiography](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB044364

### **Man in Black by Johnny Cash**

Read by Alec Volz

6 hours, 47 minutes

In this candid autobiography, legendary country-western singer Johnny Cash revisits the "good and bad times" of his life and career. Describes his rural Arkansas childhood, older brother Jack's death, seven nightmarish years of drug addiction, marriage to June Carter, and the faith in God he ultimately found.

[Download from BARD: Man in Black](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB058372

### **Composed a Memoir by Rosanne Cash**

Read by Celeste Lawson

7 hours, 20 minutes

Self-portrait of award-winning singer/songwriter Rosanne Cash (born 1955), the eldest daughter of country music legend Johnny Cash. Reminisces about her extensive musical family, including stepmother June Carter. Discusses her career, two marriages, five children, and collaborations with other artists. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Composed a Memoir](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071836

### **Chinaberry Sidewalks by Rodney Crowell**

Read by Andy Pyle

9 hours, 34 minutes

Autobiography of Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter Crowell (born 1950) evokes his hardscrabble Texas upbringing by volatile parents. Details the relationship between his epileptic, Pentecostal mother and alcoholic, honky-tonk father. Recounts the start of his own career and discusses his marriage to Rosanne Cash. Strong language and some violence. 2011.

[Download from BARD: Chinaberry Sidewalks](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB073893

### **Hillbilly Heart by Billy Ray Cyrus**

Read by Eric G. Dove

7 hours, 37 minutes

Autobiography of country singer and songwriter Billy Ray Cyrus, father of Disney star Miley Cyrus. Discusses growing up in Kentucky, working in night clubs from Nashville to Los Angeles, and his success with the 1992 song "Achy Breaky Heart." Some strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Hillbilly Heart](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076810

**Let's all Make the Day Count: the Everyday Wisdom of Charlie Daniels by Charlie Daniels**

Read by Bill Wallace

3 hours, 40 minutes

Grammy Award-winning country music legend shares personal stories, advice, and life lessons he has learned from traveling and performing around the country. Each of the short chapters is accompanied by a Bible verse. 2018.

[Download from BARD: Let's all Make the Day Count: the Everyday...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB096272

**Dixie Chicks: Down-Home and Backstage by James L. Dickerson**

Read by Margaret Strom

6 hours, 58 minutes

Traces the singing careers of sisters Martie and Emily Erwin and cohort Natalie Maines from their early days in Dallas to the award-winning achievements of their country-western band. Discusses the group's original members and the later merchandising success of the Dixie Chicks. For senior high and older readers. 2000.

[Download from BARD: Dixie Chicks: Down-Home and Backstage](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB051290

**Live Fast, Love Hard: the Faron Young Story by Diane Diekman**

Read by Erin Jones

8 hours, 55 minutes

Biography of honky-tonk singer Faron Young (1932-1996) traces his forty-year career that culminated in his posthumous 2000 induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame. Includes insights from Young's family and colleagues revealing his abusive side and discusses the history of country music. Strong language.

[Download from BARD: Live Fast, Love Hard: the Faron Young Story](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069523

**River of No Return Tennessee Ernie Ford and the Woman He Loved: a Memoir by Jeffrey Buckner Ford**

Read by Robert Sams

10 hours, 27 minutes

The son of entertainer Ernie Ford (1919-1991) chronicles his father's career--including his television show and such hits as "Sixteen Tons"--and his parents' long marriage. Discusses his mother's suicide in 1989 and his father's death, two years later, from an alcohol-induced condition. Some strong language. 2008.

[Download from BARD: River of No Return Tennessee Ernie Ford and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075651

**Blind but Now I See: the Biography of Music Legend Doc Watson by Kent Gustavson**

Read by Jack Fox

10 hours, 54 minutes

Biography of blind Grammy Award-winning guitarist, songwriter, and singer Arthel "Doc" Watson (1923-2012) from Appalachian North Carolina. Explores his training at the Raleigh School for the Blind, rise during the 1960s folk revival, partnership with his son Merle, and the development of his flatpicking style of guitar playing. 2010.

[Download from BARD: Blind but Now I See: the Biography of Music...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076189

**Sing Me Back Home: My Story by Merle Haggard with Peggy Russell**

Read by Norman Kieke

8 hours, 25 minutes

Born in Oklahoma and raised in poverty in a boxcar in Bakersfield, California, Merle Haggard served a prison sentence in San Quentin before becoming one of the most popular country music singer-songwriters in the nation. In this funny, searching, and intensely honest autobiography, he tells his story.

[Download from BARD: Sing Me Back Home: My Story](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DBC14316

**Sing Me Back Home: Love, Death, and Country Music by Dana Andrew Jennings**

Read by Jeremy Gage

9 hours, 21 minutes

New York Times editor explains the ways the classic country music of the 1950s to 1970s resonated with the rural, working-class lives of his New Hampshire family and neighbors. Discusses legendary musicians like Johnny Cash, Hank Williams, Patsy Cline, and Loretta Lynn and their effect on audiences. Strong language.

[Download from BARD: Sing Me Back Home: Love, Death, and Country...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068110

**The Three of Us Growing Up with Tammy and George by Georgette Jones**

Read by Eva Wilhelm

7 hours, 31 minutes

Memoir by the only child of country-western singer/songwriters Tammy Wynette and George Jones. Georgette, born in 1970, chronicles her parent's relationship, including their careers, divorce, and subsequent remarriages. Recalls Tammy's death in 1998 and discusses her own path and pursuit of a singing career. 2011.

[Download from BARD: The Three of Us Growing Up with Tammy and...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB076171

**All That is Bitter & Sweet: a Memoir by Ashley Judd with Maryanne Vollers**

Read by Anne Hancock

17 hours, 4 minutes

Judd, a well-known actress and the sister and daughter of country-music stars, explains her international human-rights advocacy for public-health nonprofit Population Services International. Discusses her depressions stemming from her troubled childhood and the therapy that led to her recovery and gave her tools to use in her new career. 2011.

[Download from BARD: All That is Bitter & Sweet: a Memoir](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074022

### **Coming Home to Myself by Wynonna Judd**

Read by Constance Crawford

10 hours, 58 minutes

Autobiography of award-winning country singer. Recalls her impoverished childhood and her sudden success singing duets with her mom, Naomi, who wrote Love Can Build a Bridge (RC 37934). Wynonna describes her personal and professional life and her continuing efforts to improve mentally, spiritually, and physically.

[Download from BARD: Coming Home to Myself](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB062059

### **Still Woman Enough: a Memoir by Loretta Lynn**

Read by Madelyn Buzzard

8 hours, 42 minutes

Country singer continues her autobiography begun in Coal Miner's Daughter (RC 47599). Includes reminiscences of her career and friendship with Conway Twitty, Tammy Wynette, and other entertainers; her stormy marriage to her late husband, Doolittle Lynn; and her relationships with her children. Some strong language.

[Download from BARD: Still Woman Enough: a Memoir](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB054166

### **Tammy Wynette: Tragic Country Queen by Jimmy McDonough**

Read by Kristin Allison

16 hours, 59 minutes

Biography of Tammy Wynette (1942-1998), the first country-music performer to go platinum. Discusses Wynette's Mississippi childhood, her five marriages, and her work as a recording artist. Examines the health problems that led to her decades-long drug addiction and premature death. Some strong language.

[Download from BARD: Tammy Wynette: Tragic Country Queen](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071383

**Reba: My Story by Reba McEntire with Tom Carter**

Read by Pam Ward

9 hours, 38 minutes

McEntire, an award-winning country music performer, describes her life. A rancher's daughter, McEntire married a fellow rodeo man the year of her first hit record. The marriage collapsed, but her career continued to thrive despite a tragic plane crash that killed members of her band. Marriage to a long-time colleague led to the birth of her first child. Some strong language. Bestseller.

[Download from BARD: Reba: My Story](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB038856

**Blood: a Memoir by Allison Moorer**

Read by Allison Moorer and Shelby Lynn Moorer

6 hours, 52 minutes

Memoir from a country singer-songwriter. She chronicles the pivotal moment at the age of fourteen when her father shot and killed her mother on their front lawn before turning the gun on himself. This event changed the lives of both her and her sister, fellow musician Shelby Lynne. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[Download from BARD: Blood: a Memoir](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB097546

**Honky Tonk Angel: the Intimate Story of Patsy Cline by Ellis Nassour**

Read by Jill Fox

13 hours, 14 minutes

Biography portrays Patsy Cline (1932-1963) as the first female country singer to cross over into pop music. From interviews with Cline's family and friends, Nassour details the performer's trailblazing career, dynamic relationships, and untimely death in a plane crash. Foreword by Dottie West. Some strong language. 1993.

[Download from BARD: Honky Tonk Angel: the Intimate Story of...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB058571



**Roll Me Up and Smoke Me When I Die: Musings from the Road by Willie Nelson**

Read by Bruce Huntley

3 hours, 43 minutes

Country and folk music superstar reflects on the influences of his career. Discusses growing up in Texas, moving to Nashville, loving his family, and more. Memories and commentary contributed by friends and relatives are sprinkled throughout. Includes foreword by Kinky Friedman. Strong language. Bestseller. 2012.

[Download from BAR: Roll Me Up and Smoke Me When I Die: Musings...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075901

**Garth Brooks: the Road Out of Santa Fe by Matt O'Meilia**

Read by Don Emmick

5 hours, 38 minutes

Former drummer in a band called Santa Fe describes the early career of the group's country western singer. O'Meilia recalls meeting Garth Brooks in Stillwater, Oklahoma, in 1986, appearing with him during the next year, and being impressed with the singer's determination to succeed even after a series of failures. Some strong language.

[Download from BARD: Garth Brooks: the Road Out of Santa Fe](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB048788

**Born Country: How Faith, Family, and Music Brought Me Home by Randy Owen**

Read by Bob Moore

7 hours, 30 minutes

Randy Owen, lead singer for the award-winning country-and-western band Alabama, provides an autobiographical account of his life. Owen describes his family's southern heritage, the band's rise to fame and fortune in the 1980s, and the faith and values that have sustained him personally and in his career.

[Download from BARD: Born Country: How Faith, Family, and Music...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB068466

### **Dolly: My Life and Other Unfinished Business by Dolly Parton**

Read by Pam Ward

9 hours, 33 minutes

Parton, born on January 19, 1946, in a one-room cabin in East Tennessee, was the fourth child in a family that would eventually number twelve children. Parton discusses her early years, especially her schooling and love for music; the strong ties that kept the family together; her relationship with her best friend Judy Ogle; her rise to fame in Nashville; and her marriage of twenty-eight years to Carl Dean.

[Download from BARD: Dolly: My Life and Other Unfinished Business](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB039868

### **Pride: the Charley Pride Story by Charley Pride with Jim Henderson**

Read by Ed Corrigan

8 hours, 35 minutes

Born into a poor farm family in Mississippi, Charley Pride won the hearts of country music fans in addition to three Grammy Awards. In this autobiography, he describes how he overcame prejudice and hatred to become the only African American superstar among country music's white galaxy of singing stars. A rising young star named Willie Nelson took a chance on him in 1967 when he added Pride to his tour through Louisiana and Texas--a courageous gamble that opened more doors in the music business for Pride. In 1969 Charley Pride moved his family from Montana to make his home in Dallas. Strong language.

[Download from BARD: Pride: the Charley Pride Story](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DBC14351

### **The Statler Brothers: Random Memories by Harold W. Reid**

Read by Richard Davidson

9 hours 16 minutes

Memoir by brothers Harold and Don Reid who, along with some teenage friends, formed a country and gospel quartet in 1950s Staunton, Virginia. They recall their rise to fame as Johnny Cash's opening act, their tours with other stars, their long-running television show, and the inspiration behind their hits.

[Download from BARD: The Statler Brothers: Random Memories](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072430

## **Hank: the Short Life and Long Country Road of Hank Williams by Mark Ribowsky**

Read by Tom Perkins

16 hours, 13 minutes

Music historian looks at the short life of country music icon Hank Williams (1923-1953). He examines the music, but also the man's life, from his roots in Alabama, through his meteoric rise to fame, his troubled marriage, and his drunken end at the age of twenty-nine. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2016.

[Download from BARD: Hank: the Short Life and Long Country Road...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB090060

## **Luck or Something Like it by Kenny Rogers**

Read by Joe Wilson

10 hours, 21 minutes

:Memoir of a singer in the Country Music Hall of Fame. The author details his youth, his marriages, his development as an artist, and the stories behind some of his famous songs. He also tells of the friends he made along the way, including Dolly Parton. 2012.

[Download from BARD: Luck or Something Like it](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB088944

## **Kentucky Traveler: My Life in Music by Ricky Skaggs with Eddie Dean**

Read by Jack Fox

11 hours, 28 minutes

Grammy Award-winning bluegrass and country-music star (born 1954) recounts his life and career. Details his formative years in rural Kentucky, professional success, and personal relationships. Describes his recommitment to his Christian faith after his second marriage and his friendship with the Reverend Billy Graham. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Kentucky Traveler: My Life in Music](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077401

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR20289](#)

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### **Man of Constant Sorrow: My Life and Times by Ralph Stanley**

Read by Roy Avers

17 hours, 20 minutes

Autobiography of bluegrass banjoist Ralph Stanley (born 1927 in southwest Virginia). Describes his hardscrabble upbringing, the band he formed with his brother Carter, six decades of performing, and fellow musicians. Recounts having the title song and his Grammy-winning "O Death" featured on the O Brother, Where Art Thou! soundtrack. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Man of Constant Sorrow: My Life and Times](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071760

### **Johnny Cash: the Biography by Michael Streissguth**

Read by Conrad Feininger

11 hours, 45 minutes

Author uses archives and interviews to document the life of the country-western singer Johnny Cash (1932-2003). Traces Cash's childhood as the son of an impoverished Arkansas sharecropper, his musical rise in 1950s Memphis after a stint in the air force, and his family life.

[Download from BARD: Johnny Cash: the Biography](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB063854

[Download from BARD as Electronic Braille BR17221](#)

Also available in braille BR17221

### **From this Moment On by Shania Twain**

Read by Anne Hancock

15 hours, 29 minutes

Forty-five-year-old Grammy-Award-winning Canadian singer Shania Twain details her impoverished childhood, her mother and stepfather's tumultuous relationship and their accidental deaths when Shania was twenty-two, and the painful betrayal in her own first marriage two decades later. Discusses relishing her career, second marriage, and role as a mother. Strong language. 2011.

[Download from BARD: From this Moment On](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB074444

### **Moon River and Me a Memoir by Andy Williams**

Read by Patrick Downer

11 hours, 45 minutes

Autobiography of singer Andy Williams, born in Iowa in 1927, who began his career performing with his brothers. Williams describes his rise to fame as a solo act on television shows and in Las Vegas. Discusses his early marriage to French dancer Claudine Longet and his friendship with the Kennedys. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Moon River and Me a Memoir](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB070492

### **Ain't Nothin' as Sweet as my Baby: the Story of Hank Williams' Lost Daughter by Jett Williams**

Read by Madelyn Buzzard

12 hours, 28 minutes

A country singer chronicles her heritage as the daughter of Bobbie Jett and superstar Hank Williams. Jett traces her childhood--as an infant taken in by a grandmother, placed in foster care, and adopted by an Alabama family at age three. She describes her attempts to establish her identity, to reconcile with siblings, and to claim her share of family estates.

[Download from BARD: Ain't Nothin' as Sweet as My Baby: the Story of...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB036119

### **Classic Country: Legends of Country Music by Charles K. Wolfe**

Read by Gregory Gorton

13 hours, 53 minutes

The author of *A Good-Natured Riot: The Birth of the Grand Ole Opry* (RC 50736) presents more than fifty portraits of past and present country music notables, based largely on interviews and recollections. Includes obscure performers and studio musicians as well as such stars as Hank Snow and Roy Acuff.

[Download from BARD: Classic Country: Legends of Country Music](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB056780

**Will You Miss Me When I'm Gone? the Carter Family and Their Legacy in American Music by Mark Zwonitzer with Charles Hirshberg**

Read by Robert Sams

16 hours, 53 minutes

Life and times of country music's legendary Carter family, from the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia. Chronicles the commercial success of A.P. Carter, his wife Sara, and sister-in-law Maybelle during the 1930s and the subsequent careers of Maybelle and her daughters after the breakup of the original band. Some strong language. 2002. Some strong language. 2002.

[Download from BARD: Will You Miss Me When I'm Gone? the Carter...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB056467