

OXFORD AMERICAN

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Announcing the *Oxford American's* 26TH Annual Music Issue Theme—Memphis

The magazine and limited-edition vinyl will honor the Bluff City's endless and ongoing influence on American sound.

June 7, 2024—CONWAY, AR—The *Oxford American* is delighted to announce that its 26TH annual Southern Music Issue will center the artists and sounds of Memphis, Tennessee. This is our first Music Issue dedicated to a Southern city! And, in the spirit of Memphis's rich musical legacy, we're pressing a limited-edition vinyl LP to accompany the issue.

The *Oxford American* has a long tradition of reporting on the vibrant musical ecosystem of Memphis. This winter, we're devoting an entire issue to the topic. The 2024 edition of our annual Southern Music Issue features an in-depth exploration of the Tennessee city and its surrounding region, fertile ground that has arguably cultivated more genres than anyplace else in America: rock & roll, soul, Memphis rap, garage-punk, the blues, and numerous others. Today, the sounds of Memphis will find you almost anywhere, whether you're admiring knick-knacks at an Elvis-themed memorabilia shop in Paris or watching the Criterion Collection Blu-ray of Jim Jarmusch's *Mystery Train*.

An exceptional lineup of contributors celebrate the Bluff City as the unofficial capital of the Delta, where American sounds and stories flow between the riverbanks of time. Forgotten Memphis melodies will resurface,

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beloved icons mingle with lesser-known trailblazers, and distinctly Memphian spaces come to life in the pages of the magazine and on its accompanying soundtrack. It's a dynamic tribute to a city that Memphis writer and filmmaker Robert Gordon writes "has always been a place where people come to realize their dreams."

The Memphis Issue's limited-edition vinyl record features a hand-picked collection of songs that trace the city's incomparable legacy and innovative spirit—on a format that honors the vibrant studio textures of Memphis songmakers.

To learn more about the Memphis Music Issue or request an interview with the editors of the *Oxford American*, email press@oxfordamerican.org. We would be delighted to offer your audience an inside perspective on this special edition.

Published since 1997, the annual Music Issue is the *Oxford American's* most acclaimed and popular production. In 2012, *New York Times* critic Dwight Garner wrote that the *OA's* compilations "practically belong in the Smithsonian." Beginning in 2009, Music Issues have centered on a different theme, including Southern states, Visions of the Blues, Greatest Hits, Country Roots, and Ballads.

Longtime fans of the music issue and new readers alike can now pre-order a copy of the issue plus the vinyl via OxfordAmericanGoods.org.

Current subscribers have the option to receive the vinyl edition for a \$15 shipping and handling charge and will be contacted by the *OA* with details on how to do so. They will receive their copy of the Memphis Music Issue (with or without the vinyl) in mid-November, before the issue hits newsstands on December 3.

While the 2024 Music Issue will not feature a CD, all copies of the magazine will come with liner notes and a digital download card so that readers can listen along however and whenever they choose.

To subscribe to the *OA*, visit OxfordAmerican.org/subscribe.

For bulk orders, contact info@oxfordamerican.org or 501-374-0000.

ABOUT OXFORD AMERICAN

The Oxford American is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization and national magazine dedicated to exploring the complexity and vitality of the American South through excellent writing, music, and visual art. Billed as "A Magazine of the South," it has won four National Magazine Awards and other high honors since it began publication in 1992. The *Oxford American* is published in partnership with the University of Central Arkansas.