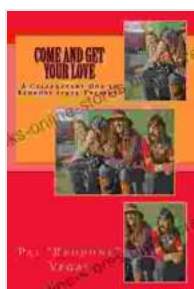


# Celebratory Ode to Redbone: A Journey Through Time, Triumph, and Cultural Resilience

In the annals of American music, there are few bands that have left as indelible a mark as Redbone. With their unique blend of Native American, folk, blues, and psychedelic rock, they forged an innovative sound that transcended genre boundaries and resonated deeply with listeners across the world.



## Come and Get Your Love: A Celebratory Ode to Redbone (1939-Present) by Jim Hoffmann

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

|                      |             |
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Their music was not merely entertainment, but a powerful force for social activism. Redbone used their platform to raise awareness about Native American rights, cultural identity, and the preservation of indigenous heritage. Through their songs, they became ambassadors for their people, challenging stereotypes and promoting understanding.

The story of Redbone is a testament to the enduring spirit of the Native American people. They faced countless obstacles and prejudices, yet they never wavered in their pursuit of musical expression and social change. Their journey is an inspiration to us all, proving that with courage, determination, and a deep connection to our roots, we can overcome adversity and make a meaningful impact on the world.

## Early Years and Musical Beginnings



The origins of Redbone can be traced back to the early 1930s, when Pat Vegas, a Cherokee singer and songwriter, began performing in his hometown of Los Angeles. In the 1950s, he formed a band called the Redbone Ramblers, which featured his brothers Lolly and Tony, as well as his cousin, Wesley Wallace. The band played a mix of country, rock, and R&B, and quickly gained a following in the Native American community.

In 1965, the Redbone Ramblers changed their name to Redbone. They also added a new member to the lineup: Jim Gasaway, a non-Native American guitarist who brought a unique psychedelic rock influence to the band's sound. With Gasaway's addition, Redbone's music became more experimental, incorporating elements of folk, blues, and rock.

## **Breakthrough and Commercial Success**



Redbone's self-titled debut album. (Image courtesy of Epic Records)

Redbone's self-titled debut album, released in 1970, was a critical and commercial success. The album featured the hit single "Maggie," which reached the top 10 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. The song's unique blend of Native American and psychedelic influences was unlike anything else on the radio at the time, and it quickly became a signature tune for the band.

On the heels of their debut album, Redbone released a string of successful singles, including "The Witch Queen of New Orleans," "Chant: 10,000 Years," and "Smoke from a Distant Fire." These songs further cemented their status as one of the most innovative and groundbreaking bands of the era.

### **Social Activism and Cultural Influence**



Throughout their career, Redbone used their music to raise awareness about Native American rights and cultural identity. They were outspoken advocates for the American Indian Movement (AIM), and they often performed at rallies and protests. Their songs addressed issues such as poverty, discrimination, and the loss of traditional lands.

Redbone's music also played a vital role in promoting Native American culture and heritage. Their songs celebrated the beauty of the Native American landscape, the wisdom of their ancestors, and the resilience of their people. They helped to break down stereotypes and foster a greater understanding of Native American culture among non-Native audiences.

### **Later Years and Legacy**



Redbone performing in later years. (Photo by Kevin Estrada/Getty Images)

Redbone disbanded in the late 1970s, but they reunited briefly in the 1990s for a series of concerts and recordings. Pat Vegas continued to perform and record into the 2000s, and he remained a vocal advocate for Native American rights.

Redbone's legacy continues to inspire and influence musicians and activists today. Their music remains a powerful reminder of the importance of cultural identity, social justice, and the enduring spirit of the Native American people.

Redbone was more than just a band. They were a cultural force that transcended music. Their music was a bridge between different worlds, connecting Native American and non-Native audiences in a shared appreciation for their unique sound and message. Their activism helped to raise awareness about important social issues, and their legacy continues to inspire and empower generations of Native Americans.

As we celebrate the rich history and lasting impact of Redbone, let us remember the words of Pat Vegas: "We're not just musicians, we're Indians. And we're proud of it."



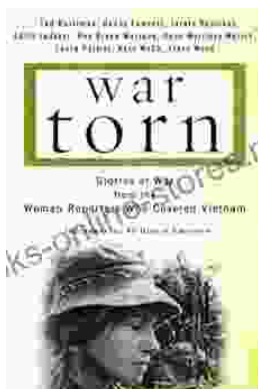
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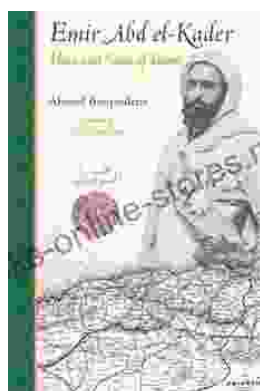
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