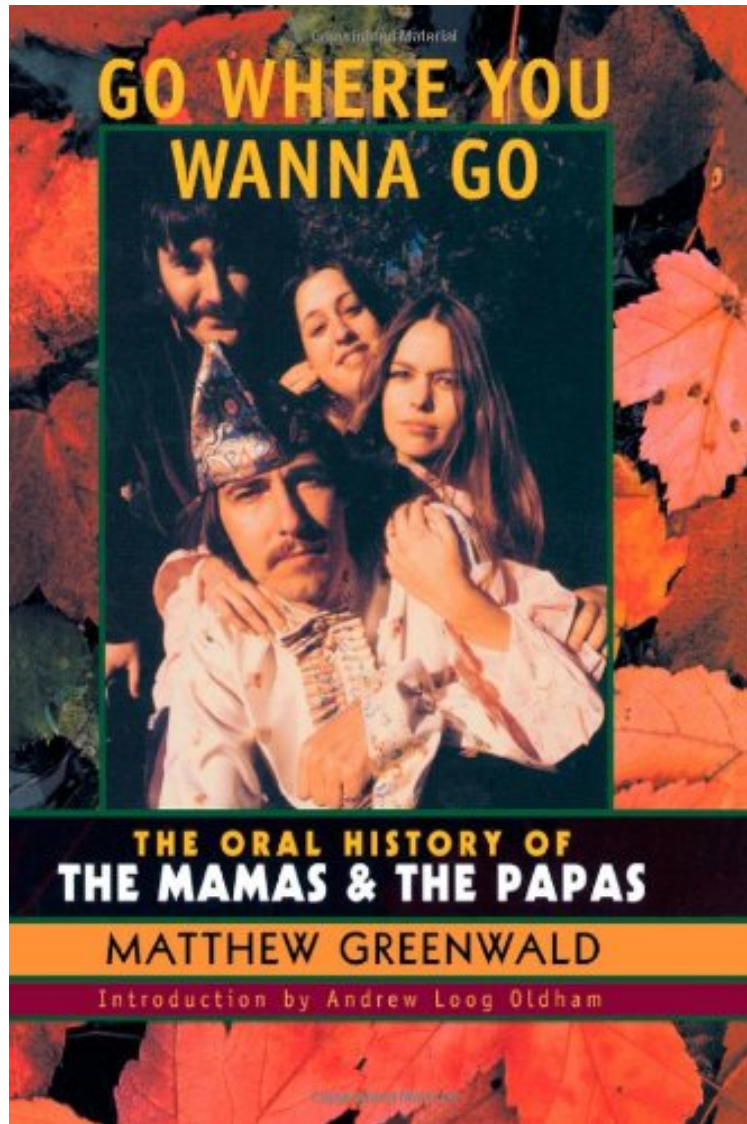


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Go Where You Wanna Go: The Oral History of The Mamas and The Papas

Matthew Greenwald

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Matthew Greenwald : Go Where You Wanna Go: The Oral History of The Mamas and The Papas before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Go Where You Wanna Go: The Oral History of The Mamas and The Papas:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Best of the Bunch By Kevin Killian The recollections of the musicians P F Sloan, Bones Howe, Barry McGuire, the Wrecking Crew, and producer Lou Adler make this one stand

out tall among a crop of similar books, all of which I have read rapidly in the past few months. I guess it had to fall out the way it did, which is a shame, but based on their personalities, with Michelle flirting with Denny while Mama Cass pined after him, the group was bound to fall apart as soon as Denny and Michelle slept together, which they did before the first LP even appeared! So like a Greek tragedy the end was in the beginning, and the rest is a turbulent sadness. Michelle never seems to regret anything that happened, and recounts the events as though they had happened to someone else far away in a different country. Denny seems more connected to the past, though like John and Cass, he was doing so many mind altering drugs, and boozing so heavily, I'm surprised he can recall a thing. The passion and the joy the Mamas and Papas brought to their best music remains, a tangible thing, despite the circumstances of their downfall. I could listen to them forever, though their last two LPs are painful to the max, so skip those. We hear again and again how John just couldn't write fast enough, and how the producers resorted to every sort of stratagem just to fill out a whole LP of tunes. One wonders if they ever did make a recording of "SAN FRANCISCO" (Wear Some Flowers in Your Hair) just to fill some space on a projected album? If so, maybe one day we'll hear it. I loved how P F Sloan seems still bewitched by the mesmerizing hotness of Michelle, he even insists she had a distinctive voice! I guess she does, though the business about Jill Gibson's contributions to the Mamas and Papas' second album confuses me. Can nobody tell Michelle and Jill apart? Then how could Michelle's voice be thought of as distinctive? And yet when you hear her you know it's the Mamas and Papas, I think even more than Denny or Cass. The typos in the book are something many reviewers complain about, but I shrug them off for the most part. Occasionally one will catch my eye particularly. Denny has a great story about buying the house where Gypsy Rose Lee once lived, and across the street lived Rudolf Friml, the composer, and Lee and Friml were having an affair (something I never heard before)! Well, the book spells Friml's first name wrong, and his last name wrong. Not just once, but consistently. Well, they were high. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good view on TMTP musical and personal career By father dick I read this along with Mackenzie Phillips book about her life, and I had a clear and documented vision of the MP career. Well written, well documented, well crafted. A must. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. BEST OVERVIEW OF MAMAS AND PAPAS EVER COMPILED! By tonybosss I have read the reviews written here, and have to wholeheartedly disagree. This is a phenomenol account, and matthew greenwald did a superlative job. I am an AVID Mamas and Papas fan, and have read EVERYTHING written about them. THIS IS THE BOOK TO READ if you want to get a complete picture of the players and the era. I learned so much from the people who were their friends and contemporaries. I have read "Papa John" by John Phillips and found it meandering and full of untruths. I have read "California Dreaming" by Michelle Phillips and found her writing to be childish and insipid. This is the book to get! You will learn SO much about this group and the flower power era than in any other publication.

Go Where You Wanna Go collects the memories of band members John and Michelle Phillips, Cass Elliot, and Denny Doherty, along with recollections from friends, fellow musicians, industry insiders, and other eyewitnesses. In Greenwald's hands, the intertwining interviews tell the story of the band from its early days in downtown New York to its global success following the release of "California Dreamin'." As the testimonials reveal, the band that harmonized together perfectly was loaded with conflicts. Michelle's brief affair with Denny enraged a jealous Cass, and led to John's temporarily kicking Michelle out of the band. Their trip to the top of the pop music ladder further eroded the band's unity, as its members found themselves living in separate mansions in California, finding it increasingly difficult to tour and perform together. In addition to new interviews with Michelle and Denny, Go Where You Wanna Go includes material from an in-depth and never-before-published interview with the late Cass Elliot. Other people speaking out in the book include David Crosby and Graham Nash (introduced to each other by Cass), Ray Manzarek and drummer Hal Blaine, musician and record producer P. F. Sloan, photographer Guy Webster and Kingston Trio songwriter John Stewart, and dozens of others. The tale of The Mamas The Papas is the quintessential story of pop music in the 60s; holding on to the youthful dreams and love of music while caught in the whirl of sex, drugs, and million-dollar deals. Go Where You Wanna Go revisits—in the words of those who were there—that time when four talented people added an unforgettable new sound to America's music.

From Library Journal Projecting a sunny, carefree image with folk-pop hits such as "California Dreamin'" and "Monday, Monday," the Mamas the Papas pioneered the kind of complex internal dysfunction later popularized by Fleetwood Mac. Greenwald, a rock journalist and longtime fan, collects quotes from new and existing interviews with MP friends and associates to tell the group's soap-opera story. The band itself is represented by new interviews with surviving band members Michelle Phillips and Denny Doherty, a previously unpublished interview with the late Cass Elliot, and previously published quotes from the group's recently deceased leader, John Phillips. The oral biography approach has pitfalls, as many of the quotes seem muddled without an author's narrative to provide background and context. Once the account reaches the group's breakup in 1968, important later events are given short shrift. For instance, it is unclear from the text exactly when Elliot died; only a caption from a funeral photo tells readers it was 1974. Later, an early Eighties reunion fronted by Doherty and John Phillips is ignored completely. Also annoying are a significant number of typographical errors in the proofs. Still, the lurid details of sudden fame, drug consumption, and

an affair between Michelle and Doherty (leading to Michelle's firing and rehiring and Mama Cass's jealous wrath) make for fascinating reading. Recommended where there is demand for Sixties rock music titles, especially since the dueling autobiographies of John (Papa John) and Michelle Phillips (California Dreamin') are out of print. Lloyd Jansen, Stockton-San Joaquin Cty. P.L., CA Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. The Mamas and the Papas' perfect pop harmonies and wistful hippie image captured my imagination as a kid, though little did I understand then that offstage, they were rockin' harder than any other group out there! Today, their dichotomous history remains fascinating it's no wonder Matthew Greenwald chose to examine it up close. (Denise Sullivan, Author of R.E.M.: Talk about the Passion, an Oral History and Rip It Up! Rock Roll Rulebreakers) With the Mamas and Papas, it was always the voices. Author Matthew Greenwald has captured the voices together one last, sweet time, telling their own story in their own voices in what is without question the definitive account of this American rock fable. (Joel Selvin San Francisco Chronicle, Pop Music Critic and Author of Summer of Love) Much more than merely a history of The Mamas and the Papas, Greenwald's book is a snapshot of a magical time in our cultural history. The interconnections it delineates are absolutely fascinating. (Michael Fremer, Senior Contributing Editor for Stereophile, Music Editor for Listener) Greenwald's research is impressive and his editing skills sharp, as the story unfolds with ease and great interest. (MOJO) Greenwald interviews members of the group (Michelle Phillips, Doherty) as well as such band contemporaries as producer Lou Adler, Roger McGuinn, David Crosby, and P. F. Sloan. You won't find a more gripping rock history-cum-moral tale: the group's spellbinding story turns Shakespearean as the California dream unravels. (High Times) As an object lesson in how all that glitters isn't gold, Go Where You Wanna Go is a you-shoulda-been-there snapshot of a loss of innocence and a farewell to the last golden era. (Record Collector, (Uk)) All in all Greenwald's book is a good warts'n'all read.... (Folkwax) About the Author Matthew Greenwald is a rock journalist whose work has appeared in Rolling Stone, MOJO, Sing Out!, and Crawdad! He lives in Los Angeles, California. Andrew Loog Oldham was the manager of the Rolling Stones from 1963-67 and is the author of Stoned.