

## The Record Store of the Mind

*Josh Rosenthal*

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**Josh Rosenthal : The Record Store of the Mind** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Record Store of the Mind:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A BREATH OF FRESH AIR ON SOME MUSICIANS, OBSCURE ALBUMS, ALONG WITH PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS.By Stuart JeffersonThis book has already been reviewed but it's so good I had to say something--but I'll keep it short.Of all the recent books about music/musicians, Josh Rosenthal's book is one of the best. It's obvious he's a deep fan of music and the recorded album. His writing style

makes you feel like you're having a friendly sit-down conversation about music and albums from someone with a real feel for his subject(s). But not just any musicians/albums--these are (for the most part) albums made by relatively/totally unknown people. Sometimes a larger label issues their work, sometimes they appear on small/self-released labels you've never heard of. But no matter. Rosenthal's view is pretty wide--taking in all sorts of genres. But along with shining a light on albums we've probably never heard he also writes about musicians like Harvey Mandel, or Eric Clapton, Alex Chilton, or The Youngbloods and their Raccoon Records--but not in the usual way we've all come to expect. And that's what makes this book so interesting and good. There's a chapter on a number of acoustic guitar players, that unless you're a fan of that music, you might not know of. Included are players like George Cromarty, Harry Taussig (his album, "Fate Is Only Once" is pretty fantastic), Steve Mann (who influenced Jorma Kaukonen who recorded "Pride Of Mann"), Mark Fosson (his first album is for Fahey fans), and a number of others like Robbie Basho, Peter Walker, Michael Chapman, and Sandy Bull, all who gained some notoriety in the guitar world. But known or not, Rosenthal writes succinctly and intelligently about each one. There's a chapter devoted to jazz that's equally interesting--bringing in several jazz musicians and albums worth knowing about like Andrew Hill, Mal Waldron, Charles Gayle, Giuseppi Logan, and others worth hearing, plus Rosenthal's Uncle Moe who influenced his jazz tastes. Plus chapters devoted to people like Charlie Louvin, Smoke Dawson, Bill Fay, and Mickey Jupp. Fay has gotten some publicity in the last few years with his albums, but when was the last time you heard anything about Jupp? He also includes a chapter titled "Start A Label If...", that's pretty funny and enlightening. And that's just a small look at what's here. Along with all the albums and players the author also includes asides on his own life and how it connects to music. His warm, organic style of writing makes this book both interesting and a joy to read. Plus you'll come away with some good information on some pretty interesting people and their album(s). This is far from a dry treatise on musicians and music genres. It's a book about perhaps lesser known artists and albums with a nice dose of personal observations from the author woven into the text and in later chapters--"1989-1997", and "Gigs"--which includes a list of ticket stubs from shows the author attended. I was pleasantly surprised at just how much I liked this book. Get a copy for yourself and give one to a music loving friend. And if you're really into music don't be surprised if you find yourself hunting for albums you come across in the book.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.  
You know who you are... By Robert M. Ferrier  
If you're like me, if you've spent too much of your young adulthood groping through thrift stores and record stores. If that search led you to corners of the music world your family just cannot understand... If Merle's death hit you like a fist to the gut. If you suddenly wonder sometimes what really happened to Albert Ayler... You'll love this.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.  
A Wonderful Read from a Man Who Knows  
By Customer  
I've always had great encounters with Josh, but never knew the extent of his musical knowledge and background. It was really nice to dig into his world more. This is a wonderful read from so many perspectives. He's lived an amazing and fulfilling musical life and gives it to the public through his record label, which is one of the most diverse out there, and through this book.

"Josh Rosenthal is a record man's record man. He is also a musician's record man. He is in the line of Samuel Charters and Harry Smith. In this age where we have access to everything and know the value of nothing, musicians need people like Josh to hear them when no one else can. T Bone Burnett Grammy-nominated producer and Tompkins Square label founder Josh Rosenthal presents his first book, *The Record Store of the Mind*. Part memoir, part music criticism, the author ruminates over unsung musical heroes, reflects on thirty years of toil and fandom in the music business, and shamelessly lists some of the LPs in his record collection. Crackling with insightful untold stories, *The Record Store of the Mind* will surely delight and inspire passionate music lovers especially those who have spent way too many hours in record stores. Celebrating ten years in 2015, Rosenthal's San Francisco-based independent record label Tompkins Square has received seven Grammy nominations and wide acclaim for its diverse catalog of new and archival recordings.