

Preface ix

1. The Folk Background before Commercialism 1
 2. The Early Period of Commercial Hillbilly Music 31
 3. The First Country Singing Star: Jimmie Rodgers 77
 4. Country Music during the Depression 93
 5. The Cowboy Image and the Growth of Western Music 137
 6. The War Years: The National Expansion of Country Music 177
 7. The Boom Period: The Emergence of a Big Business,
1946–1953 199
 8. The Development of Country-Pop Music and the Nashville
Sound 245
 9. The Reinvigoration of Modern Country Music, 1960–1972 269
 10. Bluegrass 323
 11. Country Music, 1972–1984 369
- Bibliographical Essays 417
- Guide to Recordings 511
- Index 515
- Index of Song Titles 547

Al Hopkins, John Hopkins, Tony
Alderman, John Rector, Uncle
Am Stuart, and Fiddlin' John
Carson *xiv*

The Carter Family 30

Al Hopkins and the Hill
Billies 41

Carson Robison 47

Charlie Poole and the North
Carolina Ramblers 53

Bradley Kincaid 63

Vernon Dalhart 63

Uncle Dave Macon and Dorris
Macon 73

Jimmie Rodgers 76

The Coon Creek Girls 92

The Cumberland Ridge
Runners 99

Jimmie Tarlton 111

The Callahan Brothers 111

The Blue Sky Boys 117

- The Monroe Brothers 118
- Floyd Tillman 136
- Carl T. Sprague 146
- Gene Autry 146
- The Girls of the Golden
West 147
- The Prairie Ramblers and Patsy
Montana 147
- The Light Crust
Doughboys 165
- Milton Brown and His Musical
Brownies 165
- Bob Wills and the Texas
Playboys 171
- Ernest Tubb 176
- Hank Williams 198
- The Bailes Brothers 220
- Merle Travis 220
- Ernest Tubb, Hank Snow, Carrie
Rodgers, and George D.
Hay 221

- Molly O'Day and Lynn
Davis 221
- Johnny Wright, Kitty Wells, and
Jack Anglin 222
- Lefty Frizzell 233
- Chet Atkins 244
- Roy Acuff and Johnny
Cash 255
- Dolly Parton 268
- Porter Wagoner and Dolly Parton
with the Wagonmasters 296
- George Jones and Merle
Haggard 297
- Tammy Wynette 315
- Charley Pride 315
- Bill Monroe 322
- The Blue Grass Boys 331
- Ralph and Carter Stanley 343

- Chubby Wise 343
- New Grass Revival 365
- Conway Twitty and Loretta
Lynn 368
- Willie Nelson 389
- Alabama 390
- Gram Parsons 390
- Hank Williams, Jr. 391
- Kenneth Threadgill 401
- Kris Kristofferson, Johnny Cash,
Waylon Jennings, and Larry
Gatlin 401
- George Strait 402
- John Anderson 402
- Emmylou Harris 403
- Ricky Skaggs 403