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# Gapplegate Guitar and Bass Blog

## Grego Applegate Edwards Blogs on Guitarists, Bassists, Musicians & Music

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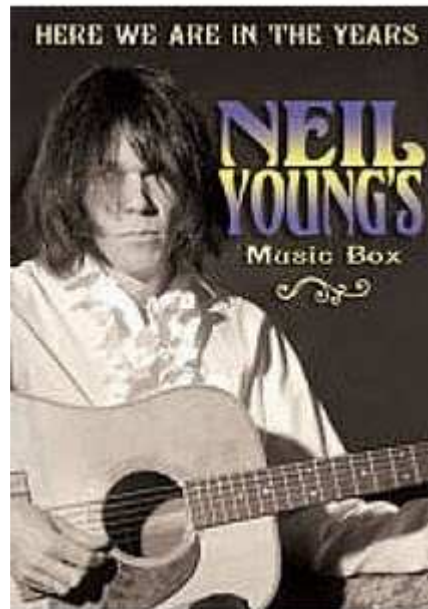
Gapplegate Music Review Blog

Grego's Yakety-Yak



Tuesday, June 21, 2011

## Neil Young DVD: Here We Are in the Years, Neil Young's Music Box



Neil Young has gained great success at the same time as he has followed his own muse. Rock, folk, country, electronic and otherwise, he has never been content to rest within a particular style. For more than 40 years he has exemplified the artist-as-seeker, the human musical force who can and does recreate his musical identity with every new album.

There's a new two-hour documentary DVD that captures pretty well the many influences and stylistic forces at play in Neil's long career. *Here We Are in the Years: Neil Young's Music Box* (Sexy Intellectual SIDVD 565) is a more-or-less chronological look at Neil Young's music biography from his teen years in Canada through the '90s. Interviews with friends and associates, some concert footage, and discussions by music journalists spice the narrative. This is an independent production coming out of England, so we do not get much in the way of personal commentary by Neil Young himself, and that is a bit of a pity.

## About This Blog

Grego Applegate Edwards writes this column.

The Gapplegate Guitar and Bass Blog covers music releases of interest to guitarists, bassists, vocalists, musicians and other creative people. It is also for the music lover who does not play but instead forms the core audience musicians most love. You are in the inner circle of the "true listeners." If you care about what you hear and want to know more about what is out there, you are the person I have in mind as I write these postings. If music isn't an important part of your life this blog is probably not for you.

Various musical genres get attention on these pages: jazz and rock with guitarists and/or bassists playing a prominent role, classical music for the guitar, world music, blues, roots, electric music, vocalists.

This site has become the primary guitar-bass blog for Gapplegate. The blog now found at [www.gapplegate.com/musicalbum.html](http://www.gapplegate.com/musicalbum.html) has become its supplement. I plan to stop maintaining that site rather soon, because the guitar business side of my activities is coming to an end.

However what we do get is an in-depth look at the various influences that have acted upon Neil's musical sensibility and in turn his creative response to them. One factor that emerges clearly is that Neil Young's early years in Canada helped shaped him in ways that perhaps an artist in England or the US might not have experienced. So for example Neil was influenced by the British instrumental group the Shadows as much or more so than some of the instrumental groups that were enjoying success in the US at the time. That he also apparently highly appreciated the Tex-Mex Fireballs group is another interesting factor that would perhaps not be typical of a budding musician in the Northeast USA. At any rate the documentary gives a detailed look at Young's exposure to Roy Orbison, the US and Canadian folk scene, the British Invasion and his dual allegiance to the melodic Beatles and harder rocking Stones, and on from there.

Anyone with a serious interest in Neil Young's music would find this DVD illuminating. The lack of commentary from Young himself does detract a bit from the impact of the discussion, but in no way seriously impedes a rather insightful look inside the creative mind of one of rock's masterbuilders. Recommended.

Posted by Grego Applegate Edwards at 7:13 AM

Labels: "[here we are in the years: neil young's music box](#)" [gapplegate guitar review](#), [neil young](#), [neil young musical biography](#), [rock documentary dvd](#)

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I cover other jazz and improvisation on the GappleGate Music Review blog (see link on this page) and modern classical and avant garde concert music on the new blogsite Classical-Modern Music Review (see link).

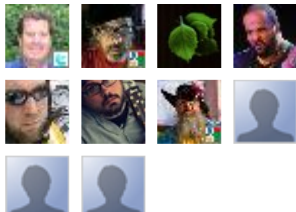
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## About Me



Grego  
Applegate  
Edwards

New York City Metro Area,  
United States

I've spent my life making and listening to music, editing, writing and trying to put food on the table. I've gone to music schools (Berklee College of Music, Contemporary School of Music), gotten advanced degrees in various related subjects (New York University, University of Chicago), written novels and been a working stiff like you. The rest is cannon fodder for those who steal identities, isn't it? Oh yes, I also write for Cadence, a periodical covering jazz and improv music, and All About Jazz, a website devoted to . . . guess! I ran a guitar shop for a while. That was interesting. I am finishing up some solo-improvisational CDs and then am going back to work on some new cross-tempo-ed ensemble pieces. That's what I do. . . some of it anyway.

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