



Jerry Smith Film & Television, Inc.

Db a PineRidge Film and Television



From:

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To whom it may concern:

A few months back, I learned that my friend, Dr. Michael FitzGerald had developed a new documentary workshop to promote the amazing but often overlooked musical heritage of Jacksonville, Florida. Dr. Fitz, as we refer to him, has been deeply engaged in this field for many years and has authored three books on the topic. He is currently involved in the development of a documentary series with the working title *Cowford Chronicles: The Music*.

Jacksonville's musical history has been described as "a tapestry of genres and styles that have shaped the sound of America." This city on the border between Georgia and Florida has, for decades, been a breeding ground for legendary bands like Lynyrd Skynyrd, The Allman Brothers Band, Molly Hatchet and 38 Special, but its deeper musical history goes back to a time when Jacksonville was "Harlem before Harlem." The city's Ashley Street was literally lined with nightclubs and cabarets.

Jacksonville's rich music history, which reflects both the city's cultural diversity and its lasting impact on American music, has been overlooked for far too long. I salute Dr. FitzGerald's efforts to dramatically document the city's rightful place in musical history.

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