Dedicated with love

to my wife, Chris;
to my children Debbie and Kevin;
and to the memory
of my parents.

—Joe Stuessy

Dedicated with love

to my wife, Jordana;
to my children
Kevin, and Sterling;
and to my parents, Dixie and A. D. Petrey
and Dave and JoAnn Lipscomb.

—Scott Lipscomb
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Even rock and rollers grow older. Some of the key figures in the early chapters of this book are now in their sixties (or deceased). The remaining Fab Four and the Bad Boys of Rock are over sixty years old. I began playing in rock and roll bands in about 1957, at the age of fourteen. Some quick math reveals that I, too, crossed the mid-century mark over a decade ago. While creating the Third Edition of this book, it became obvious that a new chapter was needed on recent trends in rock. I feared that my appreciation for and knowledge of most post–1980s rock left much to be desired. My attitude toward much of this recent music was that of a crusty curmudgeon. The need for a more sympathetic (but still critical) approach was apparent.

Dr. Scott Lipscomb has, I believe, admirably filled the need in the third and subsequent editions. I certainly appreciate his contributions as will, I predict, our readers.

I also want to thank Dr. Charles Eagle, former professor of music at Southern Methodist University. Over the past twenty-five years, he has greatly influenced my growth as a musician, scholar, and person. He has helped me see beyond the trivial, think beyond the obvious, and feel beyond the immediate.

I have taught a course in rock music for over 30 years. From the more than 9,000 students in these classes, I have learned a great deal about how nonmusic majors interact with music. Many of these students—at Southern Methodist University, the University of Texas at San Antonio, and Texas State University—have made helpful comments, asked provocative questions, offered loans of tapes and recordings, and shared important pieces of information. I am grateful to all of them for their help and interest.

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—Joe Stuessy

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—Scott Lipscomb
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