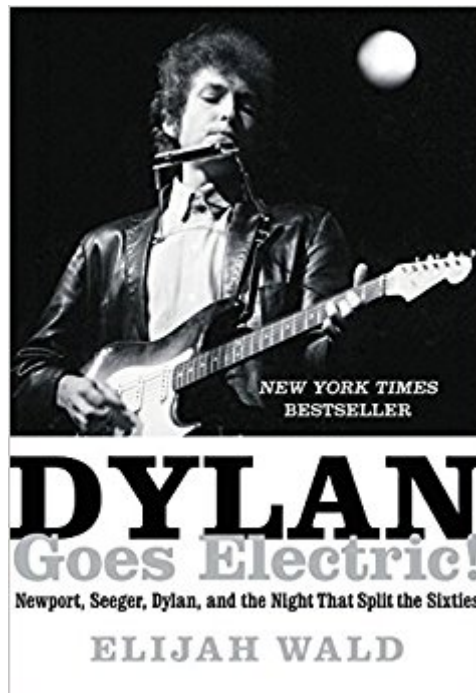


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# Dylan Goes Electric!: Newport, Seeger, Dylan, And The Night That Split The Sixties



## Synopsis

One of the music world's pre-eminent critics takes a fresh and much-needed look at the day Dylan went electric • at the Newport Folk Festival, timed to coincide with the event's fiftieth anniversary. On the evening of July 25, 1965, Bob Dylan took the stage at Newport Folk Festival, backed by an electric band, and roared into his new rock hit, Like a Rolling Stone. The audience of committed folk purists and political activists who had hailed him as their acoustic prophet reacted with a mix of shock, booing, and scattered cheers. It was the shot heard round the world "Dylan's declaration of musical independence, the end of the folk revival, and the birth of rock as the voice of a generation" and one of the defining moments in twentieth-century music. In *Dylan Goes Electric!*, Elijah Wald explores the cultural, political and historical context of this seminal event that embodies the transformative decade that was the sixties. Wald delves deep into the folk revival, the rise of rock, and the tensions between traditional and groundbreaking music to provide new insights into Dylan's artistic evolution, his special affinity to blues, his complex relationship to the folk establishment and his sometime mentor Pete Seeger, and the ways he reshaped popular music forever. Breaking new ground on a story we think we know, *Dylan Goes Electric!* is a thoughtful, sharp appraisal of the controversial event at Newport and a nuanced, provocative, analysis of why it matters.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"It is essential that you get your levels for your instruments, and for your amplifiers, and get them

into your heads!" Peter Yarrow talking to Dylan's band. Pete Seeger: "That noise is terrible! Make it stop." George Wein, festival producer: "Pete, it's too late. There's nothing we can do." Mike Bloomfield: "Bob, how do you think we did?" Bob Dylan: "They were booing. Didn't you hear it?" Mike Bloomfield: "No, man. I thought it was cheers." If you're a Dylan fan chances are you already know something about his "going electric" at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival back when he was seen and touted as the new folk messiah for many folk music followers. This book by Elijah Wald (who also wrote "How The Beatles Destroyed Rock 'N' Roll", "The Mayor of MacDougal Street", "Escaping The Delta" (these three I've read), and a few other books, delves deeper into the music, the people, and the era itself for a closer look at those crucial years. Included is a Notes section, a Bibliography, and an Index that proves useful. Wald talked with many people who were there at the time like Willie Chambers (Chambers Brothers), Barry Goldberg, John Koerner (his albums are great), Julius Lester, Tom Paxton (another long time "folkie"), Geoff Muldaur, Maria Muldaur, Mark Naftalin, Peter Stampfel (Holy Modal Rounders), festival producer George Wein, Peter Yarrow, and a number of others. Wald also had access to Alan Lomax's files with letters and other documents from the era.

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