

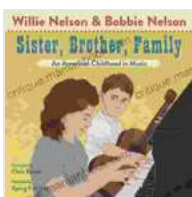
Sister Brother Family: An American Childhood in Music

In the tapestry of American childhood, music often weaves a vibrant thread, connecting families and shaping young lives. For the siblings of Sister Brother Family, music was more than just a pastime—it was an integral part of their upbringing, a soundtrack to their shared experiences.

A Musical Lineage

Sister Brother Family is a folk and Americana duo comprised of singer-songwriters Rachael and Alex Pettijohn. Their musical roots run deep, with a lineage that spans generations. Their grandfather, a Pentecostal preacher, played the guitar and sang at revivals, instilling a love of music in his children.

From a tender age, Rachael and Alex were enveloped in a world of melodies and harmonies. Their mother, a pianist, taught them classical music, while their father, a folk enthusiast, introduced them to the likes of Bob Dylan and Joni Mitchell.



Sister, Brother, Family: An American Childhood in Music by Chris Barton

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 256 pages

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Childhood Melodies

Growing up in a small town in North Carolina, the Pettijohn siblings spent countless hours making music together. They would harmonize on hymns in church, strum guitars on the porch, and write songs about their adventures.

One of their earliest compositions, "Summer Song," captured the essence of their childhood summers—filled with lazy days by the creek, blooming dogwoods, and the sweet sound of crickets.

Family Band

As Rachael and Alex matured, their musical bond grew stronger. They formed a family band, performing at local festivals and coffeehouses. Their youthful enthusiasm and heartfelt performances captivated audiences, earning them a loyal following.

The Road Less Traveled

After graduating from high school, Rachael and Alex pursued their own paths. Rachael studied music at Berklee College of Music, while Alex honed his skills as a producer. Yet, their sibling connection through music remained unyielding.

In 2013, they reunited as Sister Brother Family, releasing their debut album, "Songs for the Family." The album featured a collection of their childhood songs, reimagined with the maturity and artistry they had gained over the years.

An American Childhood

The music of Sister Brother Family evokes a nostalgic longing for a simpler time, when music filled the air in American homes. Their songs celebrate the joys of family, the beauty of nature, and the transformative power of music.

Through their lyrics, we glimpse a childhood filled with laughter, adventure, and the unwavering bond between siblings. Their songs paint a vivid portrait of small-town life, where neighbors gathered for porch concerts and community sing-alongs.

Musical Mentors

Throughout their musical journey, Sister Brother Family has been guided by a community of mentors and collaborators. They have performed with legendary folk artists such as John Prine and the Indigo Girls, absorbing their wisdom and inspiration.

One particularly influential figure was the late singer-songwriter John Hartford. Hartford's blend of traditional folk and bluegrass had a profound impact on the Pettijohn siblings, and they often cite him as a major inspiration.

Community Connections

Sister Brother Family is deeply connected to their community. They host workshops for young musicians, lead song circles at nursing homes, and participate in local music initiatives.

They believe that music has the power to bring people together, foster empathy, and create lasting bonds. Their performances are not just about

entertaining audiences, but also about building a sense of belonging and shared purpose.

Sister Brother Family exemplifies the enduring power of music to shape and enrich the lives of families. Their childhood in music has left an indelible mark on their identity and their artistic journey.

Through their heartfelt performances and timeless songs, they invite us to reconnect with the magic of our own musical memories. Sister Brother Family reminds us that music is not just a form of entertainment, but an essential thread in the fabric of our families, our communities, and our shared American heritage.



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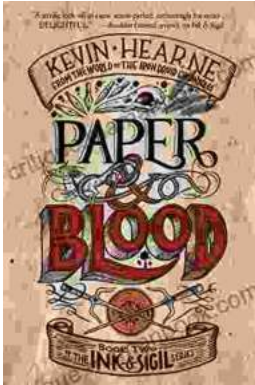
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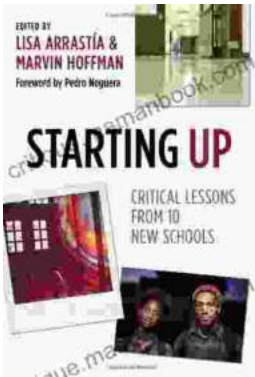
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