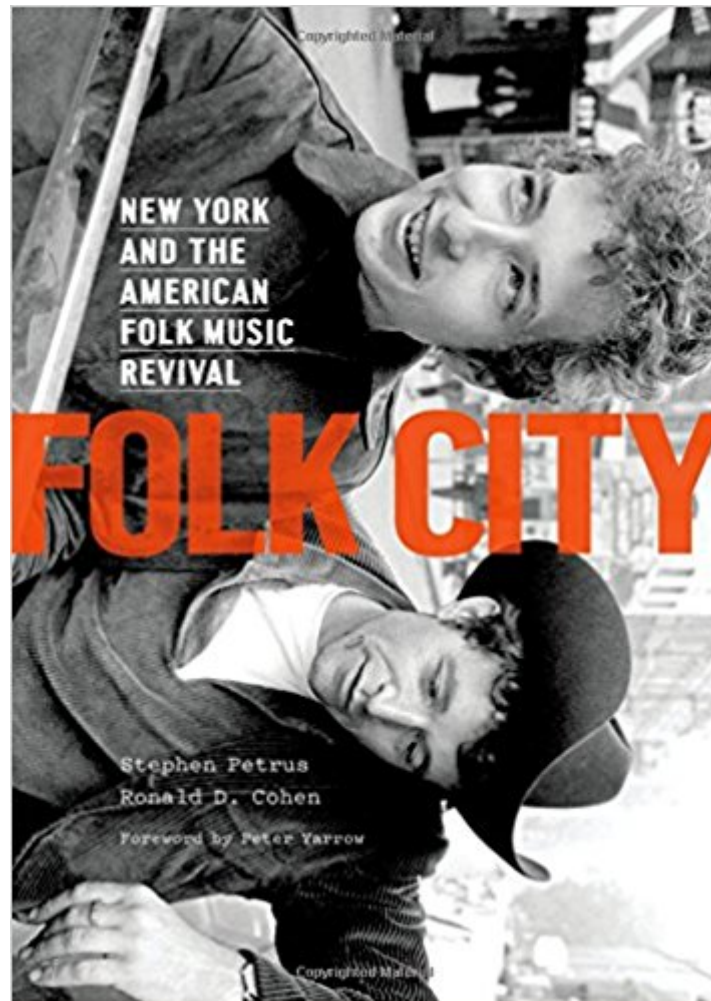


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# Folk City: New York And The American Folk Music Revival



## Synopsis

From Washington Square Park and the Gaslight Caf   to WNYC Radio and Folkways Records, New York City's cultural, artistic, and commercial assets helped to shape a distinctively urban breeding ground for the folk music revival of the 1950s and 60s. *Folk City* explores New York's central role in fueling the nationwide craze for folk music in postwar America. It involves the efforts of record company producers and executives, club owners, concert promoters, festival organizers, musicologists, agents and managers, editors and writers - and, of course, musicians and audiences. In *Folk City*, authors Stephen Petrus and Ron Cohen capture the exuberance of the times and introduce readers to a host of characters who brought a new style to the biggest audience in the history of popular music. Among the savvy New York entrepreneurs committed to promoting folk music were Izzy Young of the Folklore Center, Mike Porco of Gerde's Folk City, and John Hammond of Columbia Records. While these and other businessmen developed commercial networks for musicians, the performance venues provided the artists space to test their mettle. The authors portray Village coffee houses not simply as lively venues but as incubators of a burgeoning counterculture, where artists from diverse backgrounds honed their performance techniques and challenged social conventions. Accessible and engaging, fresh and provocative, rich in anecdotes and primary sources, *Folk City* is lavishly illustrated with images collected for the accompanying major exhibition at the Museum of the City of New York in 2015.

## Book Information

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Lomax--Authority on American folk-lore . . . Archivist to the Library of Congress . . . Commentator and artist on "Columbia's School of the Air" (1940-1945) Bill Tatnall, sitting, playing guitar, Frederica, Georgia. He was recorded by folklorists Alan Lomax, Zora Neale Hurston, and Mary Elizabeth Barnicle on a field collecting expedition to the South and the Bahamas in 1935 for the Archive of American Folk Song at the Library of Congress. (June 1935) Woody Guthrie & Burl Ives rest before radio appearance. Woody Guthrie and Burl Ives lying down, with a guitar and a bicycle, in Central Park, New York. (1940) Different version of Woody Guthrie playing guitar with sticker: This Machine Kills Fascists (Mar. 8, 1943)

Bob Dylan, half-length portrait, standing, facing front, his back to audience, at Newport Folk Festival, Newport, Rhode Island / Gilbert-Look (Jul. 28, 1964) Harry Belafonte speaking at an equal rights rally marking the sixth anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, in the garment district of New York City (1960) Musicians in Washington Square (Apr. 22, 1962) Village Voice and Cedar Tavern (ca. 1975)

Bearded guitarist singing with other musicians, Washington Square Park (ca. 1955-1965) Black man with brimmed hat sitting with musicians on fountain steps, Washington Square Park (ca. 1956) Girl playing the guitar, 2 girls in foreground, Washington Square Park (ca. 1956) White Horse Tavern, 567 Hudson Street. (ca. 1975)

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