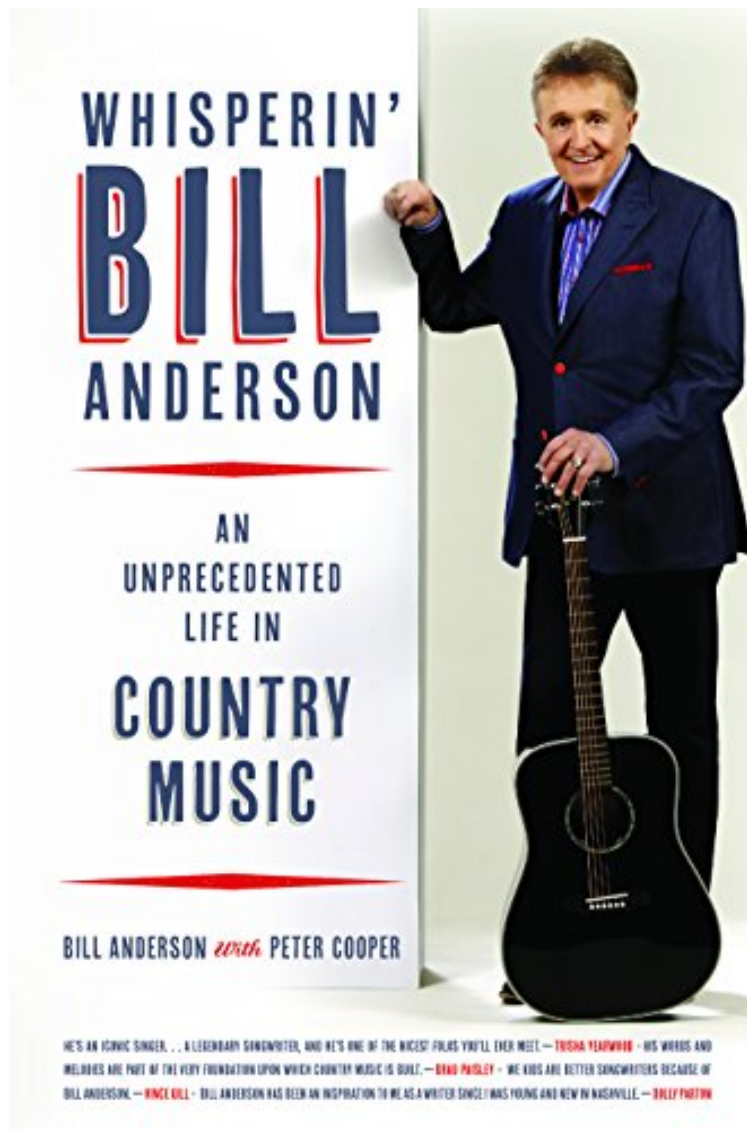


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## Whisperin' Bill Anderson: An Unprecedented Life in Country Music (Music of the American South Ser.)

Bill Anderson

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**Bill Anderson : Whisperin' Bill Anderson: An Unprecedented Life in Country Music (Music of the American South Ser.)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Whisperin' Bill Anderson: An Unprecedented Life in Country Music (Music of the American South Ser.):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating story with many life lessonsBy Bill O'HanlonI didn't know that much about Bill Anderson before I heard an interview with him on the podcast SongCraft and got this book

soon thereafter. He has had (and is still having) an interesting life and career as a songwriter and entertainer. He is open and there are many live lessons to be gained from his story.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. TN GirlBy CustomerThis was an anniversary gift to my husband; he has almost finished reading it and I am next!! Being from TN and knowing many of these musicians makes the book fun to read.<sup>0</sup> of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy MaryJaneInformation that I would only get in this book

Whisperin'squo; Bill: An Unprecedented Life in Country Music presents a revealing portrait of Bill Anderson, one of the most prolific songwriters in the history of country music. Mega country music hits like "City Lights," (Ray Price), "Tips Of My Fingers," (Roy Clark, Eddy Arnold, Steve Wariner), "Once A Day," (Connie Smith), "Saginaw, Michigan," (Lefty Frizzell), and many more flowed from his pen, making him one of the most decorated songwriters in music history. But the iconic singer, songwriter, performer, and TV host came to a point in his career where he questioned if what he had to say mattered anymore. Music Row had changed, a new generation of artists and songwriters had transformed the genre, and the Country Music Hall of Fame member and fifty-year Grand Ole Opry star was no longer relevant. By 1990, he wasn't writing anymore. Bad investments left him teetering at bankruptcy's edge. His marriage was falling apart. And in Nashville, a music town where youth often carries the day, he was a museum piece; only seen as a nostalgia act, waving from the stage of the Grand Ole Opry. Anderson was only in his fifties when he assumed he had climbed all the mountains he was intended to scale. But in those moments plagued with self-doubt, little did he know, his most rewarding climb lie ahead. A follow-up to his 1989 autobiography, this honest and revealing book tells the story of a man with an unprecedented gift, holding on to it in order to share it. Known as 'Whisperin'squo; Bill' to generations of fans for his soft vocalizations and spoken lyrics, Anderson is the only songwriter in country music history to have a song on the charts in each of the past seven consecutive decades. He has celebrated chart-topping success as a recording artist with eighty charting singles and thirty-seven Top Ten country hits, including 'Still,' '8 X 10', 'I Love You Drops,' and 'Mama Sang A Song.' A six-time Song of the Year Award-winner and BMI Icon Award recipient, Anderson has taken home many CMA and ACM Award trophies and garnered multiple GRAMMY nominations. His knack for the spoken word has also made him a successful television host, having starred on 'The Bill Anderson Show,' 'Opry Backstage,' 'Country's Family Reunion,' and others. Moreover, his multi-faceted success extends far beyond the country format with artists like James Brown, Aretha Franklin, Dean Martin, and Elvis Costello recording his songs. Today, thanks to the support of musical peers and a few famous friends who believed in him, Anderson continues to forge the path of lyrical integrity in music, harnessing his ability to craft a song that tells a familiar story, grabs you by the heart and moves you. Modern day examples include "Whiskey Lullaby" (Brad Paisley Allison Krauss), "Give It Away" (George Strait), "A Lot of Things Different" (Kenny Chesney), and "Which Bridge to Cross" (Vince Gill). A product of a long-gone Nashville, Anderson worked to reinvent himself, and this biography documents Anderson's fifty-plus-year career; a career he once thought unattainable. Richly illustrated with black-and-white photos of Anderson interacting with the superstars of American music, including such legends as Patsy Cline, Vince Gill, and Steve Wariner, this book highlights Anderson's trajectory in the business and his influence on the past, present, and future of this dynamic genre.

It is not often you get a chance to say good things about people that you love and respect. Well, I've been given that chance and I cannot say enough good things about this good person. Bill Anderson has been an inspiration to me as a writer since I was young and new in Nashville. It was songs like 'Still' and 'Once a Day' that made me want to become a better writer. Bill has written so many wonderful songs and is a major force in country music, not only as a writer but as an entertainer, a singer, and a host. It would be impossible really to measure his worth in this industry, but it's BIG! I also love and respect him as a gentle and wonderful human being. Though he speaks softly, he carries a big stick and is a wise and effective businessman. I've always admired him for that, too. I've known him since my early days in Nashville and he has remained a friend, even though we have lost so many of our old friends of that era. Thankfully Bill and I are still friends, still hanging in and still going strong. In the words of one of my own songs, I would like to say, Bill Anderson, I will always love you. (Dolly Parton) Very few songwriters or artists will be prolific or talented enough to enjoy two or maybe three decades of success. Bill Anderson is going on seven. His words and melodies are part of the very foundation upon which country music is built. What an amazing life and career. I'm so glad he chose to pick up his hammer and chisel . . . excuse me . . . pen and paper (things have changed since he first began) to write down his story for all of us fans and friends. (Brad Paisley) As a lifelong lover of songs, I had no idea what a profound impact Bill Anderson would have on me. Still to this day when I hear one of my favorite songs, Bill undoubtedly wrote it. When I asked him to write some songs with me in the early 1990s, I was shocked to hear him say he didn't write much anymore because he didn't think my generation was interested in what he had to say. I told him I believed he was one of the most prolific and important songwriters in our history, and it would mean the world to me if we could try to write something together. 'Which Bridge to Cross (Which Bridge to Burn)' was the result of that collaboration, and in Bill's words, it lit a fire to want to keep writing with some of us kids. Well, believe me, we

kids are better songwriters because of Bill Anderson. --(Vince Gill)The thing about Bill Anderson's career, for me, is that he still maintains it on the highest of levels. He's been writing hit songs for over fifty years and is one of the most successful songwriters in our history. Wow! He continues to write and collaborate with young artists and writers, keeping himself current, and continues to win awards for his successes. As a person, I love how Bill always makes everybody feel at home. As a veteran member of the Grand Ole Opry, he made me and my whole family feel comfortable on my first, nervous performance on the Opry back in 1992. He was always so kind to my family, my dad in particular. They both went to the University of Georgia and had much in common. He was one of the family when I was honored to take my place as a member at the Grand Ole Opry in 1999. I know Bill was born in South Carolina, but he was raised in Georgia so I'll always own him as a Georgia boy! He's an iconic singer (everybody knows when you hear that whisper EXACTLY who it is on the radio), a legendary songwriter, and he's one of the nicest folks you'll ever meet. He's definitely one of the good guys. I'm proud to know him! --(Trisha Yearwood)A genial account of a gentleman musician's life in and around Nashville. They don't make them like Whisperin' Bill Anderson (b. 1937) anymore, though, as co-author Cooper suggests, it is the coda to his career that has made it extraordinary, 'the most thrilling, exhilarating, and unprecedented part of his journey.' . . . Anderson is a uniquely country personality, and that personality shines through. --(Kirkus s)About the AuthorBill Anderson, one of the most successful songwriters in country music history, is a Country Music Hall of Famer and a Grand Ole Opry star who has been writing hit songs for fifty-six years.Peter Cooper is a Grammy-nominated music producer and senior lecturer in country music history at Vanderbilt University.