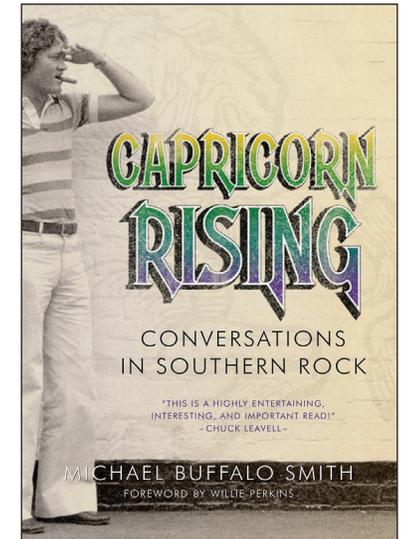


A highly entertaining, interesting, and important read!
—Chuck Leavell, author and keyboardist with
The Rolling Stones and former member
of The Allman Brothers Band

Capricorn Rising

Conversations in Southern Rock

by *Michael Buffalo Smith*
foreword by *Willie Perkins*



October 2016 - Interviews/Southern Rock/Music

9780881465785 • \$24.00 • Paperback • MUP/P534 • 266 pages • 6 x 9

Photographs • Index • *Music and the American South Series*

Media Contact: Mary Beth Kosowski, Director of Marketing (478) 301-2880 kosowski_mb@mercer.edu

Macon, Georgia—"If anybody has been the scribe for the history and growth of the music known as Southern Rock, it's been Michael Buffalo Smith," says Charlie Daniels, 2016 inductee into the Country Music Hall of Fame. "His devoted and in depth writing has for decades kept the public abreast of the music, the players, the triumphs, and the tragedies. Smith's new book, *Capricorn Rising* gets to the heart of the matter with one-on-one conversations with the artists who have made this music part of American culture."

Capricorn Rising: Conversations in Southern Rock is a collection of interviews with many of the stars, producers, and associates of the 1970s Southern record label, Capricorn, which was founded in the heart of Macon, Georgia in 1969.

Author Michael Buffalo Smith has been interviewing the movers and shakers in rock and country music for over twenty-five years, and with this volume, he collects word for word, complete interviews with Capricorn artists including Gregg Allman, Dickey Betts, George McCorkle, Bonnie Bramlett, Paul Hornsby, Johnny Sandlin, Chuck Leavell, and many others, providing a glimpse into the early 70s when Southern Rock was born in Macon.

Capricorn Rising also includes memorials to the two men who founded the Capricorn studio and record label, Phil Walden and Frank Fenter. The foreword is by Willie Perkins, The Allman Brothers Band tour manager from 1970-1976.

Michael Buffalo Smith is an author, journalist, and musician who was born and raised in Spartanburg, South Carolina during the Southern Rock era, when his hometown heroes, The Marshall Tucker Band became one of the biggest bands on the Capricorn Records label. He is the author of *Rebel Yell: An Oral History of Southern Rock* and *Prisoner of Southern Rock: A Memoir*. Learn more about him at www.michaelbuffalo.net.

The **Music and the American South Series** concentrates on music in all its forms and its relation to the American South. As such, it will include studies on collections, biographies, various genres, and will be interdisciplinary in approach.

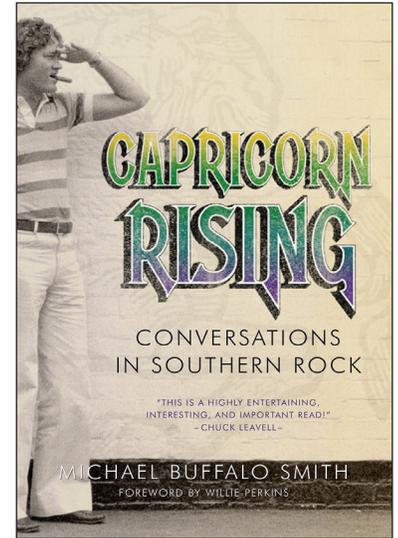
Mercer University Press, established in 1979, has published more than 1,400 books in the genres of Southern Studies, History, Civil War History, African American Studies, Appalachian Studies, Biography & Memoir, Fiction, Poetry, Religion, Biblical Studies, and Philosophy. The reputation of the Press significantly enhances the academic environment of Mercer University and carries the name of Mercer and Macon, Georgia throughout the world.

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Advance Praise



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—**Charlie Daniels**, 2016 inductee into the Country Music Hall of Fame

Phil Walden and Frank Fenter gave all of us Southern kids who dreamed of having our own place in music a label full of artists who spoke to us. From The Allman Brothers Band and The Marshall Tucker Band to Captain Beyond and Wet Willie, those of us who were raised in the land where Rock and Roll was born finally had OUR bands. Who better to write about it than Michael Buffalo Smith, a man who lives, breathes, and respects that music and those times. Hats off to Phil and Alan Walden and Frank Fenter.

—**Billy Bob Thornton**, Oscar® and Golden Globe Awards® winning actor, director, writer, and musician

I've known Michael Buffalo Smith for several decades and have the utmost respect for him and his talents. In this book of interviews with various musicians, artists, and folks in the music business from the South, he brings forth great insight into the making and development of the Southern Rock sound. You get all sides of the story and the history unfolds as he leads the interview subjects with dexterity and great questions. *Capricorn Rising* is a highly entertaining, interesting, and important read!

—**Chuck Leavell**, author and keyboardist with The Rolling Stones and former member of The Allman Brothers Band

In *Capricorn Rising*, Michael Buffalo Smith has put together a collection of personal interviews that take the reader through one of the most important periods in the long, wonderful history of Southern music. His care for and love of the genre and the musicians who added to it are present in each and every question. We should all thank him for his patience and ability to document the history—by presenting it from the inside view of those who were right in the middle of it all!

—**Tommy Talton**, recording artist and member of the band Cowboy

Michael Buffalo Smith has a deep passion and knowledge of Southern music and Capricorn Records, the label most singularly associated for bringing the Southern Rock genre to the world. His journalistic chops go beyond the superficial writing that often skims the surface of Southern Rock by sharing the real story. *Capricorn Rising* is an on point oral history of Southern Rock where Smith interviews those who helped create the genre by always asking the right questions. If you are a serious student of Southern Rock, *Capricorn Rising* is a must read.

—**Rob Duner-Fenter**, son of Frank Fenter, Capricorn Records co-founder and partner

I have had the honor of personally knowing or meeting almost every artist and producer in this book, and I personally worked for and with several of them and, of course, worked with Phil Walden and Frank Fenter on almost a daily basis. I found these interviews interesting and illuminating. I learned many fascinating and previously unknown aspects of the upbringing and careers of these great artists and pioneers. So, dig in and enjoy this encyclopedic and riveting collection.

—**Willie Perkins**, president of Republic Artists Management Company and tour manager for The Allman Brothers Band from 1970–1976