



# A Love Supreme: The Story of John Coltrane's Signature Album

By Ashley Kahn

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Few albums in the canon of popular music have had the influence, resonance, and endurance of John Coltrane's 1965 classic *A Love Supreme*-a record that proved jazz was a fitting medium for spiritual exploration and for the expression of the sublime. Bringing the same fresh and engaging approach that characterized his critically acclaimed *Kind of Blue: The Making of the Miles Davis Masterpiece*, Ashley Kahn tells the story of the genesis, creation, and aftermath of this classic recording. Featuring interviews with more than one hundred musicians, producers, friends, and family members; unpublished interviews with Coltrane and bassist Jimmy Garrison; and scores of never-before-seen photographs, *A Love Supreme* balances biography, cultural context, and musical analysis in a passionate and revealing portrait.

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## A Love Supreme: The Story of John Coltrane's Signature Album By Ashley Kahn Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Along with Miles Davis's seminal album, *Kind of Blue*, saxophonist John Coltrane's *A Love Supreme* is undoubtedly one of the world's most influential jazz recordings. Recorded with pianist McCoy Tyner, bassist Jimmy Garrison and drummer Elvin Jones over the course of one evening in 1964, the record "caught Coltrane at a pivotal point in his creative trajectory: the crystallizing of his four years with this renowned quartet, moments before his turn toward the final, most debated phase of his career." In *A Love Supreme: The Story of John Coltrane's Signature Album*, Ashley Kahn (*Kind of Blue: The Making of the Miles Davis Masterpiece*) covers how the album was made, where it was made, why it is so important and how it reached such a broad audience (it is one of the top-selling jazz albums of all time). Music fans and historians will devour the book, which is rife with anecdotes and commentary from Bono, Phil Lesh, Alice Coltrane (Coltrane's widow); black-and-white photographs; and previously unpublished interviews with Coltrane himself. It features a foreword written by Elvin Jones.

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From Library Journal

Jazz writing appears to be moving toward high art, with Kahn leading the way. In his second study of a groundbreaking jazz recording (the first was on Miles Davis's *Kind of Blue*), he addresses the less obvious aspects of Coltrane's album, including the saxophonist's ideas and the actual recording session, interweaving them all with snippets of interviews with the Coltrane family and musical cohorts. Five brief sections, or interludes, discuss topics like the label that released the record (Impulse), the producer, and related poetry, while the epilog concisely summarizes the text. *A Love Supreme*, Kahn reveals, was a spiritual manifesto that touched countless listeners. Many issues come to the fore: the cultural movements of the mid-1960s, including expression of spiritual values, and technical musical challenges. Coltrane fulfilled his desire to record in one finite session without regard to commercial pressures. He was able to pull together much of his previous work and concentrate it in one piece. The only book-length treatment of the record, this is absolutely essential jazz history for all libraries. [This book's publication coincides with the Verve Music Group's release of an expanded, two-disc version of *A Love Supreme*.-Ed.]-William G. Kenz, Minnesota State Univ., Moorhead.

--William G. Kenz, Minnesota State Univ., Moorhead

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From [Booklist](#)

\*Starred Review\* Coltrane was already a jazz colossus, acclaimed by peers, critics, and audiences alike, when he, pianist McCoy Tyner, bassist Jimmy Garrison, and drummer Elvin Jones recorded the spiritually informed four-part suite *A Love Supreme*, very efficiently and in sequence, on December 9, 1964, in recording engineer Rudy Van Gelder's New Jersey studio. After its release and much greater popularity than avant-garde jazz customarily enjoys, Coltrane became a spiritual as well as musical hero to every subsequent generation of jazz players and listeners. Here Kahn does for *A Love Supreme* what he did in *Kind of Blue: The Making of the Miles Davis Masterpiece* (2000) for Coltrane's former employer's biggest hit, and because *A Love Supreme* was pivotal in Coltrane's career--he became the fountainhead of free jazz almost immediately after recording it--Kahn winds up writing the great saxophonist's biography again, more lucidly, if in less detail, than anyone has before. He injects fine sidereal pieces on Impulse! Records, Van Gelder, the prayer at the heart of the suite, the single live performance of it, and the recording's many editions over the years, which will soon include an augmented two-CD version, the only companion to this lucid, brilliant,

resplendently illustrated book that could better it in aesthetic satisfaction. *Ray Olson*  
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#### **Thomas Major:**

This book untitled *A Love Supreme: The Story of John Coltrane's Signature Album* to be one of several books this best seller in this year, that's because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy that book in the book store or you can order it by means of online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, because you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason to you to past this publication from your list.

#### **Ralph Overman:**

The reason why? Because this *A Love Supreme: The Story of John Coltrane's Signature Album* is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will distress you with the secret this inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who all write the book in such incredible way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of gains than the other book include such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I had been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

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