



# **Texas Tornado: The Times and Music of Doug Sahm (Brad and Michele Moore Roots Music Series)**

*Jan Reid*

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Doug Sahm was a singer, songwriter, and guitarist of legendary range and reputation. The first American musician to capitalize on the 1960s British invasion, Sahm vaulted to international fame leading a faux-British band called the Sir Douglas Quintet, whose hits included "She's About a Mover", "The Rains Came", and "Mendocino". He made the cover of "Rolling Stone" magazine in 1968 and 1971 and performed with the Grateful Dead, Dr. John, Willie Nelson, Boz Scaggs, and Bob Dylan. "Texas Tornado" is the first biography of this national music legend. Jan Reid traces the whole arc of Sahm's incredibly versatile musical career, as well as the manic energy that drove his sometimes turbulent personal life and loves. Reid follows Sahm from his youth in San Antonio as a prodigy steel guitar player through his breakout success with the Sir Douglas Quintet and his move to California, where, with an inventive take on blues, rock, country, and jazz, he became a star in San Francisco and invented the 'cosmic cowboy' vogue.

Reid also chronicles Sahm's later return to Texas and to chart success with the Grammy Award-winning Texas Tornados, a rowdy 'conjunto rock and roll band' that he modeled on the Beatles and which included Sir Douglas alum Augie Meyers and Tejano icons Freddy Fender and Flaco Jimenez. With his exceptional talent and a career that bridged five decades, Doug Sahm was a rock and roll innovator whose influence can only be matched among his fellow Texas musicians by Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison, Janis Joplin, and Stevie Ray Vaughan. "Texas Tornado" vividly captures the energy and intensity of this musician whose life burned out too soon, but whose music continues to rock.

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