



New release notes for:  
music educators, museum  
curators, and libraries

**“An extremely thorough and informative book that reveals the evolution and inner workings of keyboard instruments that changed contemporary music for the good, forever.**

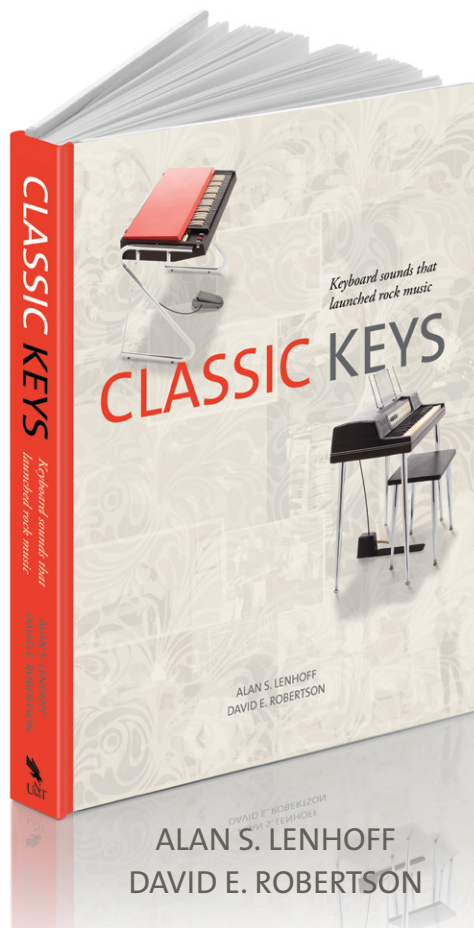
**As an educator, I feel that this book should be required reading  
for every contemporary keyboardist.”**

*Dave Limina*

*Piano department chair, Berklee College of Music,  
and author of Hammond Organ Complete*

# CLASSIC KEYS

*A detailed discussion of the signature rock keyboard sounds of the 1950s to the early 1980s, set in the context of keyboard development since the first organ. The electric pianos, organs, and early synthesizers that changed the musical world and became the foundation palette of contemporary keyboards.*



Hardcover, 9.5 x 12.5 inches, 416 pages,  
560 color and B&W illustrations.  
Publisher: University of North Texas Press.

## Subjects covered in *Classic Keys* include:

- The earliest keyboard instruments—the water organ and hydraulis
- Musical innovations that underpin keyboards
- The dulcimer, clavichord, and harpsichord
- The pipe organ and reed organ
- The theatre/cinema organ
- The piano, and piano industry history
- Technical inventions leading to the electrification of music
- Early 1900s electric and electronic keyboards
- The Telharmonium, Theremin, and Ondes Martenot
- Transistor stage organs
- Electro-mechanical pianos
- Pre-digital electronic pianos compared
- Sample players and string machines
- The twelve signature keyboard sounds of rock
- The history of Hammond, Wurlitzer, Rhodes, Vox, Farfisa, Hohner, Gibson, RMI, Mellotron, Moog, and many others
- The rise of the Japanese keyboard industry
- Musique concrète and electronic music
- Sound synthesis and synthesizers
- The advent of digital keyboards
- Contemporary musicians using vintage keys.

**“It should be on every music lover’s bookshelf.”**

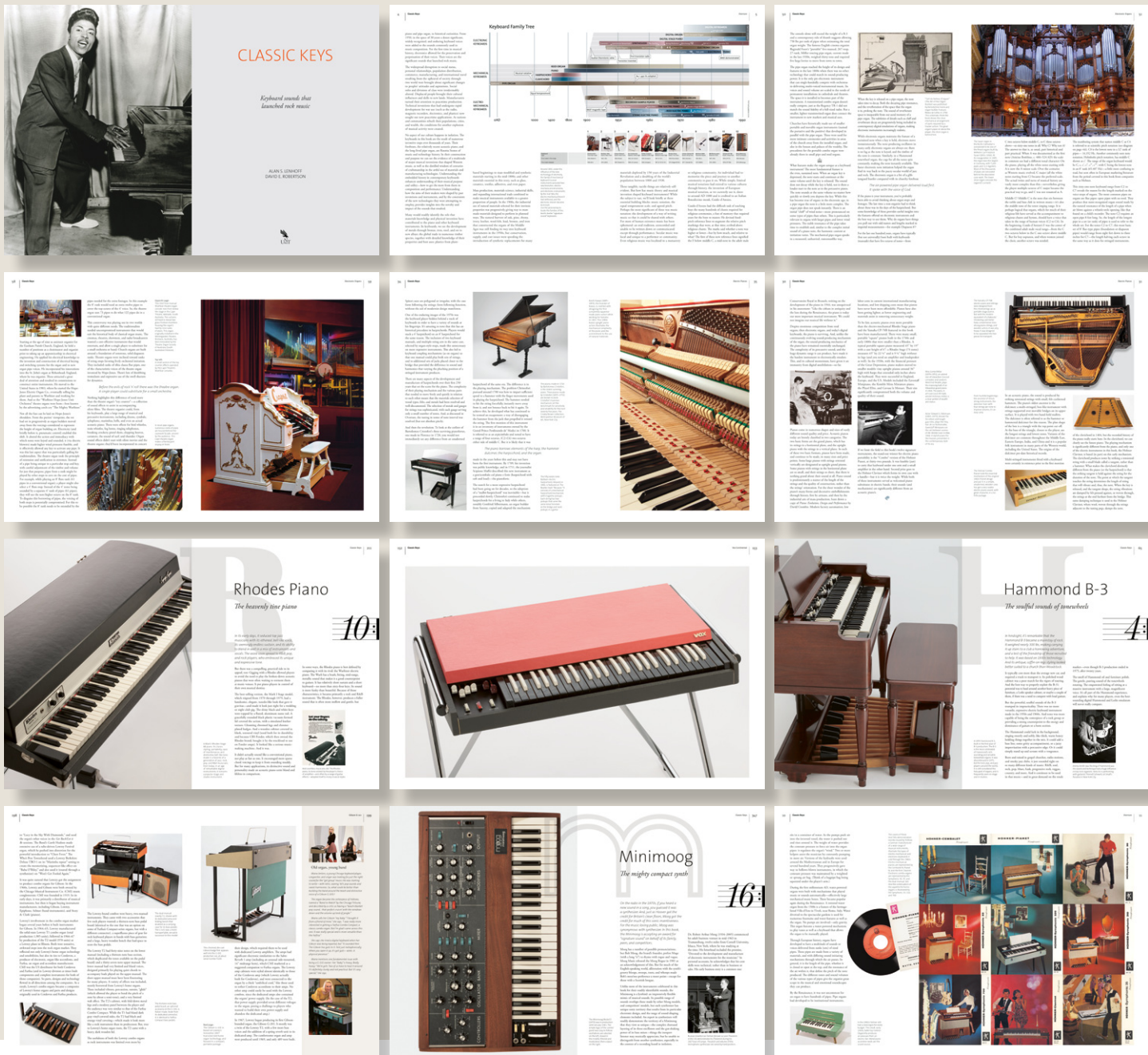
*Rick Wakeman*

*Keyboard player for Yes, solo artist and session player*

**“Everything you always wanted to know about vintage keyboards.”**

*Donald Fagen*

*Keyboard player, singer and co-founder of Steely Dan*



**Classic Keys: Keyboard Sounds That Launched Rock Music**

Alan S. Lenhoff and David E. Robertson.  
Includes bibliographical references and index.  
Keyboard instruments—History—20th century.  
Electronic musical instruments—History—20th century.  
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University of North Texas Press  
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