

A singer sits at the piano and loses all inhibitions while in complete control of the instrument: Little Richard, Ray Charles, Jerry Lee Lewis. Although church singer Arizona Dranes doesn't come close to the stature of those icons, she set the mold for rockin' singer/ pianists in 1926 with six "test records" that have stood the test of time.

Until now, very little has been correctly reported about Dranes besides the fact that she was blind, from Texas, had a piercing Pentecostal voice and was the first recording artist to play piano in the secular styles of the day, while singing words of deep praise.

As it turns out, Dranes didn't grow up in sanctified storefront churches, but was given the tools to create by man before she became the Holy Ghost's go-to singer.

Michael Corcoran, former music critic and columnist for the Austin American-Statesman, has spent years unearthing details on the life of the mysterious woman behind the music. The book includes a CD containing all 16 of Arizona Dranes' recorded tracks, expertly remastered from the original OKeh label 78 RPM records by Grammy-winning producer Christopher King.

# HE IS MY STORY: THE SANCTIFIED SOUL OF ARIZONA DRANES



ARIZONA DRANES



© 2012 Tompkins Square  
2335 Larkin St., #11 San Francisco, CA 94109  
Distributed by Fontana Distribution LLC. All Rights Reserved.  
www.tompkinsquare.com



Michael Corcoran

Includes 16 Track Music CD