These voices express the blues in a deep and truthful way. They touched your heart.”
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“Blues and jazz are America’s most treasured gifts to the world. These powerful stories bring us face to face with the blues and remind us that the music was used to survive in the face of adversity and terror.”
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“This book is indispensable for anyone who cares to know the roots of Mississippi blues music. Some of these interviews are painful to read, but like singing the blues they make the pains bearable, and sometimes even come.”
Give My Poor Heart Ease includes much more than simply blues music; it covers a wide spectrum of African American and American experience in a place that just happens to be in Mississippi.”
— ERNEST J. GAINES, author of The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman, A Gathering of Old Men, and The Heart of A 子整 by the blues. This book features more than twenty interviews relating frank, dramatic, and engaging narratives about black life and blues music in the heart of the American South. Here are the stories of artists who have long memories and speak eloquently about their lives, blues musicians who represent a wide range of musical traditions—from one-strand instruments, bottle-blowing, and banjo to spirituals, hymns, and prison work chants. Celebrities such as B. R. King and Willie Dixon, along with artists known for their work chants. Celebrities such as B. R. King and Willie Dixon, along with artists known

Ferris toured his home state of Mississippi, documenting the voices of African Americans as they spoke about and performed the different musical traditions that formed the authentic roots of the blues. Now, Give My Poor Heart Ease presents front and center a evocative selection of the artistically and emotionally rich voice of this profound document.

William Ferris is the John Hope Franklin Chair Professor of English and Director of the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University. A former chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Ferris coedited the Encyclopedia of Southern Culture and is author of Blues from the Delta, a Rolling Stone magazine has named him among the Top Ten Professors in the United States. To see more, visit www.gohbblue.com

THROUGH THE YEARS, TALENTED HUMORISTS, ARTISTS, and writers have made Mississippi their muse. Behind the blues, rhythm, and passion, Mississippi is America. In this richly illustrated book, Ferris captures those rich voices so well. He has a deep and truthful way. They touched your heart.”

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“These stories and photographs evoke memories of my childhood and a world gone by but still with us—the blues are now and forever.”
— WILLIAM CHRISTENBERY, artist

“I have only begun to dig into this trove of American culture, and I have already listened to ‘Jaybird in the Air’ about a hundred times. It is the greatest song of the 1970s, Francis William Ferris through the 1960s and 1970s, Mississippi’s illustrious Folklorist, William Ferris toured his home state of Mississippi, documenting the voices of African Americans as they spoke about and performed the different musical traditions that formed the authentic roots of the blues. Now, Give My Poor Heart Ease presents front and center a evocative selection of the artistically and emotionally rich voice of this profound document.