

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rush lyricist and drummer Neil Peart releases new book on his life and times

After a short hiatus, Neil Peart is back on the road again — both as the drummer and lyricist for the legendary band Rush on their 30th anniversary tour, and as the author of his third — and latest — book, *Traveling Music*.

Peart, considered to be one of rock music's greatest lyricists, also cemented his reputation as a writer in the publishing world when his second book, *Ghost Rider*, debuted at number one on Amazon.com in 2002. Two years on, and feeling the urge to write again, Peart decided to drive his BMW Z-8 from L.A. to Big Bend National Park in Southwest Texas — a 2,500 mile solitary journey — in order to find inspiration and ideas.

En route, he acted as his own DJ — lining up his CDs chronologically and according to his moods: “traveling music” by artists ranging from Frank Sinatra to Linkin Park, Miles Davis to Radiohead, Patsy Cline to Madonna.

“Not only did the music I listened to accompany my journey, but it also took me on sidetrips, through memory and fractals of associations, threads reaching back through my whole life in ways I had forgotten, or had never suspected. . . . Sifting through those decades and those memories, I realized that I wasn't interested in recounting the facts of my life in purely autobiographical terms, but rather . . . in trying to unweave the fabric of my life and times. As one who was never much interested in looking back . . . I found that once I opened those doors to the past, I became fascinated with the times and their effect on me. The songs and the stories I had taken for granted suddenly

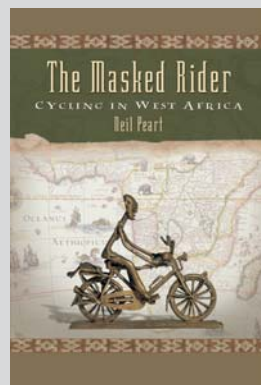
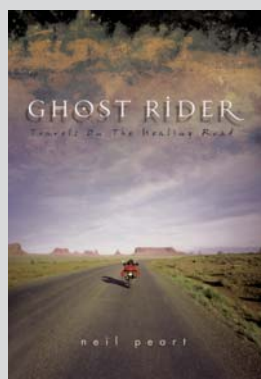
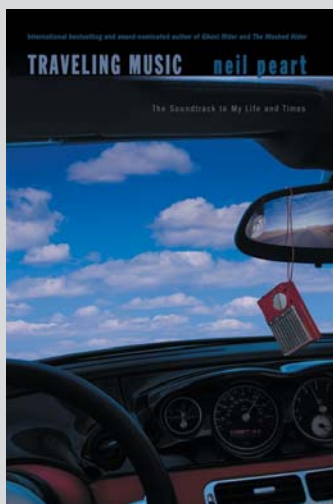
had a resonance that had clearly echoed down the corridors of my entire life, and I felt a thrill of recognition, and the sense of a kind of adventure. . . .”

Traveling Music is an inspiring, appreciative celebration of excellence in the artists who inspired Peart's own creative odyssey. Through the power of his storytelling, all of the past and present comes alive, in music and memory, songs and stories.

Neil Peart is the drummer and lyricist for the legendary band Rush, and author of *The Masked Rider: Cycling in West Africa* and *Ghost Rider: Travels on the Healing Road*. *Ghost Rider* describes Peart's cross-country motorcycle journey as he tries to come to terms with the tragic deaths of his wife and daughter. It was nominated for the Writers' Trust of Canada Drainie-Taylor Biography Prize because of its “exceptional merit” as one of the five best biographies of the year. Peart is currently on tour with his bandmates as Rush celebrate their 30th anniversary. *Masked Rider*, an account of his grueling bicycle journey through the west African country of Cameroon, is being re-released next month. ECW Press will also publish Rush's authorized tour book, *Contents Under Pressure*, by Martin Popoff in late July 2004.

Traveling Music The Soundtrack to My Life and Times

Neil Peart
Cloth 1-55022-664-9
\$34.95 CDN, \$28.95 U.S.
Paper 1-55022-666-5
\$24.95 CDN, \$19.95 U.S.
6 x 9", 400pp
June 2004
Music/Memoir



For media inquiries,
contact:

Kulsum Merchant
ECW Press
Tel: (416) 694-3348
Fax: (416) 698-9906
Email:
kulsum@ecwpress.com

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