

## FLEETWOOD MAC IN CHICAGO

The Legendary Chess Blues Session, January 4, 1969

By Jeff Lowenthal and Robert Schaffner

176 pp. Schiffer. 2022.

*"[T]he story a lot of people don't know about early Peter Green and Fleetwood Mac is that we were a blues band [first]," said Mick Fleetwood (110). 1969. Chicago. [Chess Ter-Mer Studios](#). An all-day recording session of eighteen songs and no overdubs between seven Chicago Black musicians ([Buddy Guy](#), [David "Honeyboy" Edwards](#), et al.) and five British white musicians (Fleetwood Mac). [Fleetwood Mac in Chicago: The Legendary Chess Blues Session, January 4, 1969](#) rescues from obscurity a photographic treasure trove by Chess's then house photographer Jeff Lowenthal and adds insiders' recollections. A hundred of the images were used in the resulting double [album](#) cover and gatefold, but at thumbnail scale. The book's 160 or so images — large, glossy, and many never-before seen — are from the original negatives and [available for reprint](#). British blues enthusiast Robert Schaffner conceived of the project, and gathered tributes and conducted interviews among the thirty-nine contributors. Band members and other musician/singer/songwriters, the album's producers, music journalists, and a guitar maker attest to Fleetwood Mac's significance to the blues era, and emotive, soulful style and generosity to fans. Peter Green's "phrasing, invention, and sound will stand out forever in the history of the blues guitar" (96), said Martin Barre of Jethro Tull. Welsh guitarist Kim Simmonds said, "British blues is really Chicago blues. We added, I*

think, a little extra energy to it" (30). Lowenthal and Schaffner's labor of love is a show-and-tell of a moment in blues history and its impact. — [Lisa Thaler](#) (author of *Look Up: The Life and Art of Sacha Kolin*), 27 October 2022