CONTENTS

Acknowledgments ix
Introduction 1

IN THE BEGINNING: THE 1940S 9
Sally Ann Forrester 13
Wilma Lee Cooper 20
Rose Maddox 28
Ola Belle Campbell Reed 35

THE SECOND DECADE: THE 1950S 41
Bessie Lee Mauldin 46
Vallie Cain 54
Grace French 59
The Lewis Family: Miggie, Polly, Janis 63
The Stonemans: Patsy, Donna, Roni 69
Margie Sullivan 84

THE NUMBERS ARE GROWING: THE 1960S 93
Jeanie West 96
Betty Amos with Judy and Jean 100
Gloria Belle 104
Hazel and Alice 113
Dottie Eyler 135
Vivian Williams 138
Bettie Buckland 143
Ruby Davis 146
Ginger Boatwright 150
The Whites: Pat, Sharon, Cheryl, Rosie 157
Wendy Thatcher 161
Martha Adcock 168
The McLain Family: Alice, Ruth, Nancy Ann 175

THE FLOODGATES OPEN: THE 1970S 181
Beck Gentry 186
Suzanne Thomas 192
Delia Bell 202
Buffalo Gals 207
Betty Fisher 216
Katie Laur 221
Dede Wyland 229
Lynn Morris 233
The Women in California 241
Laurie Lewis 250
Kathy Kallick 260
Claire Lynch 269
Lee Ann Lenker Baber 275

LEADERS OF THE BAND: THE 1980S 281
Missy Raines 284
Alison Brown 293
All-Female Bands 304
Alison Krauss 316

TOO MANY TO COUNT: THE 1990S AND BEYOND 331
Kristin Scott Benson 337
Rhonda Vincent 346
The Dixie Chicks 361
Cherryholmes 374

Conclusion: Not Just Pretty Good for a Girl! 381
Sources 385
Bibliography 403
Author Interviews and Emails 425
Index 431