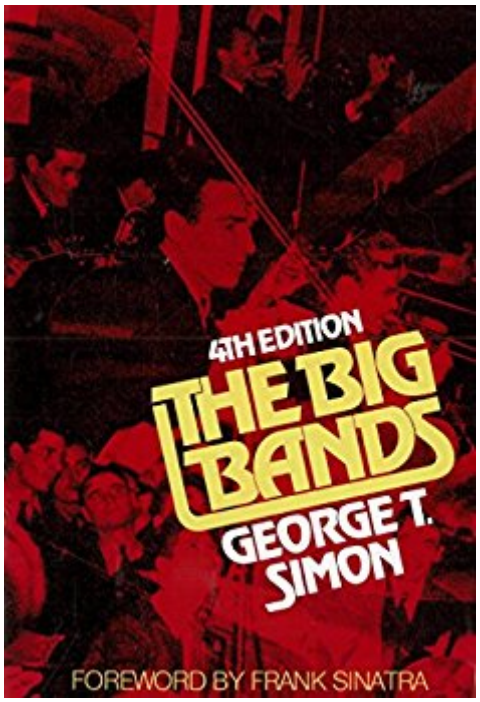
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The Big Bands



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Synopsis

In this book you will find an astounding 400 biographies that highlight the history and personnel of the great bands. It is organized into four sections: Ã¢â ¬Å“The Big Bands--ThenÃ¢â ¬Â• (the scene, the leaders, the public, the musicians, vocalists, arrangers and businessmen, recordings, radio, movies and the press); Ã¢â ¬Å“Inside the Big BandsÃ¢â ¬Â• (profiles of 72 top bands); Ã¢â ¬Å“Inside More of the Big BandsÃ¢â ¬Â• (hundreds of additional profiles arranged by categories (Ã¢â ¬Å“The Arranging Leaders,Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬Å“The Horn-playing Leaders,Ã¢â ¬Â• etc.); and Ã¢â ¬Å“The Big Bands Now.Ã¢â ¬Â•The Big Bands is one of the best books on the subject. It is both readable and an invaluable reference source for the study of jazz standards since many were written by big band leaders or musicians or were popularized through their performances and recordings. The index is comprehensive with names but lists no songs.George T. Simon was one of the original organizers and members of the Glenn Miller Orchestra for which he played the drums. He was also one of the first writers for Metronome Magazine where he remained from 1935 until 1955.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mr. Simon gives great background on the big and not so big swing bands. I read the hardback version way back in the early 1980's. His personal relationship with many of the leaders and musicians gave him a front row seat to many live shows. As a writer for Downbeat he had access to anyone and everyone that played in that great era of American music. He played drums also so the musicians felt at ease with "one of their own" so inside interviews of the band leaders from their musicians really adds color to each bands review. Another great book by George T. Simon is his book on Glenn Miller whom was a personal friend to Mr.Simon. If you are a fan or just curious about the big band era this book is a must!

Just what I wanted. I read to my 97-year-old mother and finding appropriate material is important. She was a young married during the WWII years. I was born while Dad was overseas. This book reminders her of the music she loved during her early-married life.

A meticulous masterpiece of a book on an era of American music that will never pass our way again.

Anyone interested in this period owes a large debt to George T. Simon (who, sadly, isn't around to collect it) My (used) copy was filled with newspaper clippings of obituaries of musicians from these bands. I wish the publisher would re-print this incredible resource or let someone else print it.

If you are a big band fan you will find unlimited stories of the musicians. This is my second book, I had the first edition years ago.

This book was recommended to me when I was looking for a compilation of songs from the 30s and 40s, and I'm really happy with it. The best feature, from my point of view as a performer, is that there's an informative description (often a page to a page and a half) about each song -- telling information about the composers, the singers who made it famous, etc. It's the kind of info that can help us give the song meaning, for ourselves and our audiences. Great compilation of favorites of the WWII generation!

This book was for my father who is 89 yrs young. He used to play in a dance band in a night club on Friday & Saturday nights all the years when I was growing up. His memory is failing and he wanted

to read about the bands of the era of the 40's & 50's. This book really helped him refresh his memory. I am 69 years young, and of course the music of the 40's & 50's is what I listen to also. I also bought the Big Bank Almanac for him to read.Next time I spend the weekend, I plan on reading them myself.

This can be used as a coffee table book or for making music. Former Metronome magazine journalist Simon was a firsthand witness to the Big Band Era and heard, knew all the participants, interviewing many of them. He put that background to splendid use in this music folio, providing background information on the songs and those who made them famous. I once panned a music trivia book Simon wrote, but he knocked it out of the park with this. Bravo!!!!

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