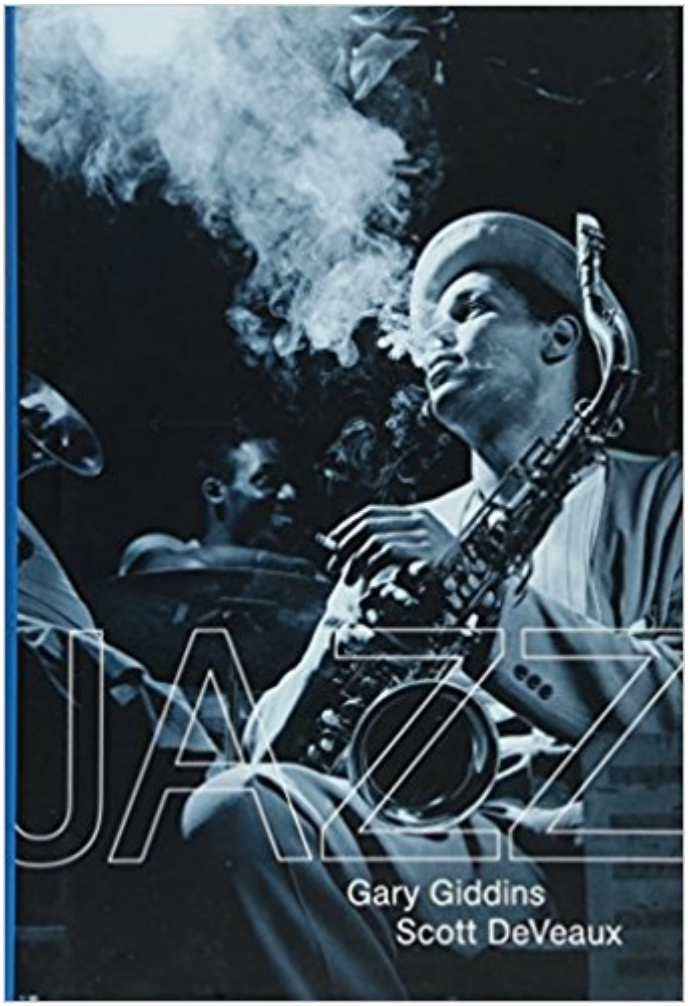
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Jazz



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Synopsis

The story of jazz for the general reader as it has never been told before, from the inside out: a comprehensive, eloquent, scrupulously researched page-turner. In this vivid history of jazz, a respected critic and a leading scholar capture the excitement of AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s unique music with intellectual bite, unprecedented insight, and the passion of unabashed fans. They explain what jazz is, where it came from, and who created it and why, all within the broader context of American life and culture. Emphasizing its African American roots, Jazz traces the history of the music over the last hundred years. From ragtime and blues to the international craze for swing, from the heated protests of the avant-garde to the radical diversity of todayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s artists, Jazz describes the travails and triumphs of musical innovators struggling for work, respect, and cultural acceptance set against the backdrop of American history, commerce, and politics. With vibrant photographs by legendary jazz chronicler Herman Leonard, Jazz is also an arresting visual history of a century of music. 38 photos

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The difficulties of writing cogently about jazzÃ¢â ¬â •of discerning musical regularities in a genre built around improvisatory jams, and a narrative thread that transcends haphazard biographyÃ¢â ¬â •are admirably addressed in this history. Critic Giddins (Bing Crosby) and historian DeVeaux (The Birth of Bebop) have an easier task in the book's first half, which traces jazz's coalescence in New Orleans out of varied strands of black music, its shaping by Armstrong, Ellington and other giants and its efflorescence in the big band era as the soundtrack of the American century. The tune grows unavoidably less catchy as postwar bebop and successor

avant-garde tendencies transform jazz into a self-conscious art music epitomized by John Coltrane's existential squawk. (The authors maintain a cordial respect for every strain of modern jazz except Kenny G: There are many things to dislike about smooth jazzÃ¢â ¬â •for example, everything, they sputter.) The multimedia work contains moment-by-moment exegeses of classic recordings (2:13: [Artie] Shaw's line climaxes on a dramatic high note) that readers can find on the publisher's Web site, along with study aids. The authors' fluent, engaging treatment mixes scholarly lore and sociocultural analysis with piquant character studies and rapt evocations of musical artistry; the result is a treasure-trove for fans and students alike. Photos. (Oct.) Copyright Â Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Ã¢â ¬Å“Starred Review. There are numerous histories of jazz on the market, but renowned cirtic Giddins and scholar DeVeauxÃ¢â ¬â„¢s offering jumps immediately to the top of the list.Ã¢â ¬Â• - BooklistÃ¢â ¬Å“Giddins is without question the most persuasive literary stylist current working in jazz criticismÃ¢â ¬â ¢no writer has ever written about Louis Armstrong with such vividness, or about Cecil Taylor with such sympathy and analytical insight. DeVeaux provides academic clout and formal rigor, bringing to bear a strong foundation in musicological methodology.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Time Out New YorkÃ¢â ¬Å“Gary Giddins and Scott DeVeaux's Jazz cuts through the gibberish, racial politics, and ideology that typify so much of contemporary jazz criticism. This excellent book, which not only addresses musical theory but provides insight into the history of the art as well, will serve the general reader but can also be used to stimulate discussion groups and jazz workshops.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Ishmael Reed, author of Mixing It Up: Taking On the Media Bullies and Other ReflectionsÃ¢â ¬Å“Like no other history, Jazz involves the reader right from the start in an active listening role. The parsing of the selected recordings is brilliantly done, and this feature alone makes the book a must, for beginners and seasoned fans. But there's much more, all imbued with the coauthors' love for and understanding of the music, in all its many facetsÃ¢â ¬â œand as a living, still evolving language.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Dan Morgenstern, director of the Institute of Jazz Studies, Rutgers University, and author of Living with JazzÃ¢â ¬Å“In an innovative departure from previous approaches to the history of American Jazz, this eagerly awaited new text by Gary Giddins and Scott DeVeaux offers a unique combination of cutting-edge historical scholarship and experienced journalistic perspectives. This book is destined to become an important resource, one that confronts crucially important musical and social issues in depthÃ¢â ¬â ¢and with passion.Ã¢â ¬Â• - George E. Lewis, Case Professor of American Music, Columbia University, and author of A Power Stronger Than Itself: The AACM and American Experimental MusicÃ¢â ¬Å“This extraordinary book is the

one we've been waiting forÃ¢â ¬â œan exhaustive, multi-disciplinary, judiciously crafted history of jazz and its culture. It is sure to become the industry standard, cherished by students as well as aficionados, who may dispute its judgments but will surely keep it close at hand as an essential reference.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Krin Gabbard, author of Hotter Than That: The Trumpet, Jazz, and American CultureÃ¢â ¬Å“This is without a doubt one of the best books on jazz ever written. Gary Giddins and Scott DeVeaux have achieved a monumental feat by creating a history of jazz that will appeal to academicians and aficionados alike. Thoroughly researched and carefully documented, yet written in an entertaining and enjoyable narrative style, this is truly a book for jazz lovers of all backgrounds. By telling the story of jazz in its full cultural, musical, political, social, economic, and historical context, Giddins and DeVeaux have given us one hell of a kick-ass book!Ã¢â ¬Â• - David Baker, Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Jazz Department, Indiana University

We're using this book as the basis of an adult-learning course, together with the Ken Burns' Jazz DVDs. It's a 2-term course, with 28 weeks (56 hours) total. We evaluated many books before selecting this one.We wanted to emphasize the music itself, and we had pretty much given up on that until we found this book. There are accompanying CDs and DVDs (you have to buy them separately) with interactive listening guides (you read on-screen what's happening with the music as you listen to it) that are great. The text of the listening guides is also in the book, so if you want to watch the selections for free on You Tube while you follow along in the book, you can do that without extra cost.There are many, many on-line resources on the W.W. Norton website which are free to use in conjunction with the book. There's an extensive library of short videos that show basic jazz concepts, quizzes, flash-cards, song clips, and many really interesting videos of the authors explaining various aspects of jazz.The book is co-authored by Gary Giddins, one of the premier U.S. jazz critics.This book and its associated materials have made it possible for our group of non-jazz-experts to learn a TON about the music together. It's been a wonderful resource. I highly recommend it.

Delivered on time; product is as described. Totally satisfied

Bought for school. Boring but not too bad

I learned so many things about jazz history that I knew nothing about!

Perfect condition

The book arrived looking a little too much like homework. But by the second chapter - its worth getting the collection of CDs that baby sit this book even if you have a lot of the recordings separately, especially useful on MP3 - it was soon obvious that the authors must have been at pains to keep this to one volume. And by the third chapter I wished there were several more volumes and much more extensive analysis of the musicians included and those not mentioned.Perhaps the greatest delight is hearing coherent and structured synopses of many things you pick up incoherently over years of listening. There’s not much of the subjective in this tome which, since the Smithsonian Collection of Classic Jazz, serves as a serious but friendly overview of this great but undervalued pillar of American and world culture. More like this please...

This was a gift to my grandson, who is a music major, & he loves Jazz. When I saw this book, I thought he would like it. After speaking to him, he told me he loved the book & found it very interesting. He would certainly recommend to any one who is interested in the history of Jazz & loves Jazz.

Very good read if you are intrested in jazz. I got it for class but would like to go back some say and read it for recreational purposes.

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