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Jazz And Its History (Masters Of Music)



Synopsis

Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Bennie Goodman, Miles Davis, Thelonius Monk, and scores more jazz composers and performers stride through this colorful volume, as it summarizes America's greatest contribution to the world's music. This volume takes jazz to the present day, showing the synthesis of jazz and electronic music and citing today's best instrumentalists.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Italian

Excellent resource and teaching guide for elementary school. Filled with fabulous photos, historical information and engaging anecdotes appropriate for children. A great text to use for Jazz Appreciation Month in April. Especially notable are the tie-ins to the slave trade and the civil rights movement... how jazz is an expression of freedom and how jazz evolved from work songs, spirituals, ragtime and the blues. Key players such as Louis Armstrong, Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, Miles Davis, etc and their musical contributions are noted. Excellent book! Great vendor-- I bought the book from Pizooti Books through .com. Great customer service and prompt delivery!

This is an excellent introduction to the history of Jazz music. The illustrations are intriguing and guide the reader in a sort of mental film of the development of jazz. Excellent for young readers as

well as older ones. I'm about to hit the 'Drums' section, but had to put it down to write this review right quick %^)

my sister, feel very good . fast and in time.. great and good experience. The product arrived on time and was well packaged. My wife has been baking some wonderful loaves of artisan-type rye, white and whole wheat breads. They are very crusty, and we had experienced some difficulty finding a product that could handle the crust. This product worked extremely well, cutting through the crust with ease. We are very pleased with our recent purchase.

Perhaps the best introductory book to jazz for kids in about 5th through 9th grades (depending on their reading level, and prior knowledge), this book is formatted in the old Doris-Kindersley style (I believe that current publisher Barron's either bought D-K, or this line of books), with oversized, heavy paper, two-page spreads focused on a single broad topic, and a large number of related sidebars, old photos, drawings, and memorabilia relating jazz to its broader context. This format is particularly relevant to jazz, as its birth and evolution are intimately linked to significant historical events, including African musical elements, the torturous conditions of slavery, the mixture of religious and European elements in such hybridized ghettos as New Orleans, the economic and legal constraints of sharecropping and other Jim Crow outgrowths, and the flowering of a Harlem-led renaissance, northward migration and WWII, and the several paths of civil rights movement, among other political, sociological, and economic currents. The short "chapters" convey this interplay, as well as looking at centers of jazz development (e.g., New Orleans, Harlem, Europe, large cities), instruments and technical aspects of recording (great for budding engineers), an overview of the major players in the development of jazz (including Armstrong, Mingus, Holiday, Lester Young, Monk, Hawkins, Byrd, Parker, Goodman and Miller, Sonny Rollins, Miles, Ellington and Basie, Ornette Coleman, Sarah Vaughan, and brief comments on contemporary musicians, including Henry Threadgill and Steve Coleman. Because of this broad coverage of the underpinnings, players, instruments, and context of jazz, the book has a broad appeal. Because of the numerous captioned pictures and sidebars, it feels a little dense, and a through reading will take some time; younger readers may either skim over and return to interesting sections, or use it as a reference. However, the memorabilia, factoids, and mostly well-rendered drawings add interest, color, and excitement; there's a lot packed in here. The repeated format, fairly large print, and chronological presentation (interrupted by such general chapters as those on various instruments, "Jazz Festivals," etc.) help bring order to all the visual and narrative information. A lot of jazz

histories for kids stop right around bebop, but the book nicely covers the cool and avant-garde movements. The translation from the original Italian is largely excellent, and even adult jazz fans will have a hard time finding significant errors or omissions here (yes, you could argue that not all of bebop's protagonists are included, but overall, and for an introduction, the book succeeds). The book does a fine job of accounting for the parallel currents of tradition and improvisation; in particular, it traces (in "A Musical Journey") the many versions of "Body and Soul," from Coleman Hawkins landmark solo to Cassandra Wilson's vocal. A superb book, it includes a chronology, a brief but nicely-done discography, and a useful index.

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