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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

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 it's 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.

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