

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Selected Readings on Jazz

General, Historical, and Academic

The Making of Jazz. Collier, James Lincoln. Delta/Dell Publishers.

(A widely respected general history of jazz's development.)

The Music of Black Americans: A History. Southern, Eileen. W. W. Norton & Co.

(A scholarly look at various forms of early African American musical forms.)

Black Music. Jones, LeRoi. Wm Morrow & Co.

(The writer's impressions of various jazz figures and their "meaning.")

Blues People. Jones, LeRoi. Wm. Morrow & Co.

(An excellent history of how the blues arose out of the slavery era.)

Black Music of Two Worlds. Roberts, John Storm. Wm Morrow & Co.

(A scholarly examination of music from the West Indies and America.)

The Story of Jazz. Stearns, Marshall. Oxford University Press.

(Published in 1956, this book provides good insights into traditional jazz.)

Early Jazz: Roots and Musical Development. Schuller, Gunther. Oxford University Press.

(A scholarly examination of music from ragtime to 1930, full of musical analyses)

Biographical

Mister Jelly Roll. Lomax, Alan. Grossett and Dunlap.

(A fascinating look at New Orleans in the early 1900s and Jelly Roll Morton's life and music. It reads like a novel, but is a penetrating analysis of early jazz.)

Music is My Mistress. Ellington, Duke. Doubleday.

(An entertaining autobiography, mostly the great composer's personal recollections but not much insight into his music.)

Duke Ellington, Jazz Composer. Rattenbury, Ken. Yale University Press.

(A musicologist examines Ellington's unique contribution as a composer.)

Beyond Category: The Life and Genius of Duke Ellington. Hasse, John Edward. DaCapo.

(Based on the archives of the Smithsonian, this book looks in detail at the education and musical evolution of jazz's greatest composer.)

Beneath the Underdog. Mingus, Charles. Vintage.

(A passionate autobiography full of the composer's life experiences.)

Milestones: The Music and Times of Miles Davis, Vols 1 and 2. Chambers, Jack. Beech Tree Books/Wm Morrow & Co.

(The definitive biography in two large volumes, looking at each significant recording session and musical relationship with other players.)

Satchmo': The Genius of Louis Armstrong, Giddens, Gary. Anchor Books.

(An abundantly illustrated celebration of Armstrong – the first great jazz soloist -- and his times)

Bird Lives: The High Life and Hard Times of Charlie Parker. Russell, Ross. DaCapo.

(A in-depth look at the tortured life and musical salvation of this symbolic figure)

John Coltrane: His Life and Music. Porter, Lewis. University of Michigan Press.

(A detailed appreciation with many musical examples, for serious reading.)

Collections – Essays on various musicians

Jazz Masters of the Fifties. Goldberg, Joe. DaCapo reprint. (Essays and critical pieces)

Jazz Masters in Transition: 1957-1969. Williams, Martin. DaCapo reprint. (Essays and critical pieces)

But Beautiful: A Book About Jazz. Dyer, Geoff. Abacus.

(An “impressionistic” – fictionalized – re-creation of the lives of jazz musicians.)

Riding on a Blue Note: Jazz & American Pop. Giddins, Gary. DaCapo reprint.

Books by the Instructor.

The 101 Best Jazz Albums: A History of Jazz on Records. Lyons, Len. Wm Morrow.

(A survey of the great recording sessions from all styles of jazz and a historical introduction to each style. Out of print but available as a “used” book.)

The Great Jazz Pianists: Speaking of Their Lives and Music. Lyons, Len. Wm. Morrow.

(A survey of the development of jazz piano and interviews with 20 of its most well known artists. Available in the DaCapo reprint series.)

Jazz Portraits. Lyons, Len and Perlo, Don. Wm Morrow.

(An appreciation through brief essays on more than 100 essential jazz musicians,

with portrait photography. Out of print but available as a “used” book.)