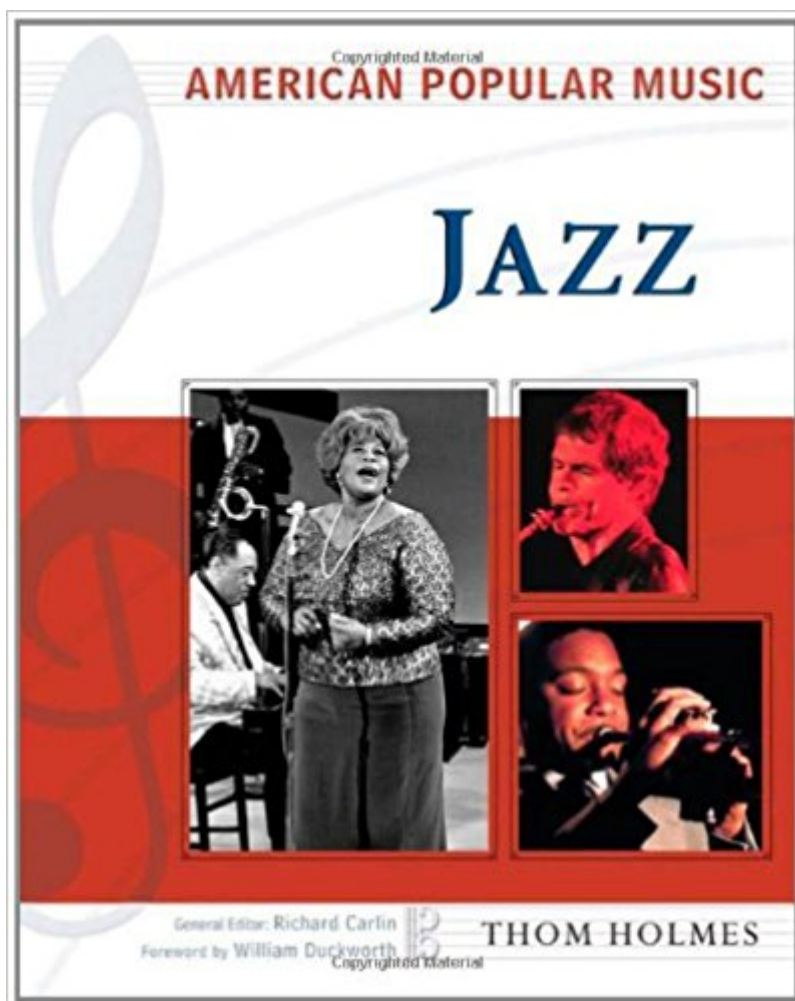


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Jazz (American Popular Music)



Synopsis

American popular music reflects a rich cultural diversity. From Aaron Copland to Miles Davis to Elvis Presley to Muddy Waters, the United States has produced some of the most influential and beloved musicians and performers of the 20th century. The blues, jazz, and rock and roll - musical genres loved around the world - were born here, and American composers, producers, singers, and songwriters have crafted a unique heritage in other genres such as classical and folk. American Popular Music, a new eight-volume set, celebrates American music by presenting a wealth of information on seven major musical branches. Each comprehensive book provides the perfect, one-stop starting point for research in each musical field.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up-- A brief but comprehensive history that covers jazz's origins in West African polyrhythmic folk music through the new traditionalism of the contemporary trumpeter Wynton Marsalis. Major developments such as New Orleans Dixieland and Bebop receive separate chapters, as do big bands, jazz pianists, and vocalists. One significant omission in the latter is Sarah Vaughn. Carlin's tone throughout is descriptive rather than judgmental; his strength is in noting the contributions of key figures, such as Louis Armstrong's special talent as an improviser and vocalist, or Bix Beiderbecke's use of innovative harmonies. However, even though an extensive discography (and bibliography) follows each chapter, Carlin typically does not direct readers to specific recorded examples of his generalizations. While Langston Hughes's *Jazz* (Watts, 1982) and

James Lincoln Collier's *Inside Jazz* (Four Winds, 1973; both o.p.) cover similar ground, Hughes's book is for younger readers, and Collier's, of course, does not cover the past 20 years (or the compact-disc era), to which Carlin devotes a chapter. Illustrated with clear black-and-white photographs of the jazz greats. --James Witham, Lexington Public Library, KY Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This concise volume is a part of Facts On File's seven-volume American Popular Music set. With more than 500 alphabetically arranged entries covering history, instruments, leading figures, influential recordings, varying styles and subgenres, vocabulary, and performance techniques, the volume functions as a comprehensive guide to a uniquely American musical form. A very useful "Introducing Jazz" section briefly discusses jazz eras and movements and provides a helpful listening guide for nonaficionados. Most helpful of all, entry headings are cross-referenced throughout the introduction, allowing users to jump right to them. The volume is heavily cross-referenced throughout and has occasional black-and-white photographs. Composer entries begin with birth and death dates and a brief description--for example, "Mingus, Charles (1922-1979) American bass player, composer, arranger, and bandleader." The scope of personages is not limited to Americans or to mainstream or popular artists. For example, Czech guitarist and composer Miroslav Vitous, best known as a founding member of Weather Report, merits his own entry, as do eccentrics Sun Ra and Pharaoh Sanders. Other miscellaneous entries include, for example, Hot Club de France, tone cluster, and the Wire magazine. Six appendixes complete the volume, among them a list of seminal recordings, a historical map of early jazz, and a list of Grammy Awards for jazz. An eight-page glossary of music terms follows the appendixes. "End Notes and Further Reading" includes a fair number of readily available Web documents (interviews, essays, articles, etc.). Finally, a comprehensive index finishes the volume. Functioning more as a dictionary than a detailed and in-depth encyclopedia, *Jazz* is appropriate as a handy reference volume for high-school, public, and academic libraries. Michael Tosko Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Not quite sure how the supplier of this book could think that this book had edge marking and slight staining. When it arrived apart from a very small tear in the plastic wrapping it was absolutely perfect in every way. An absolute steal at the price, Highly recommended!!

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