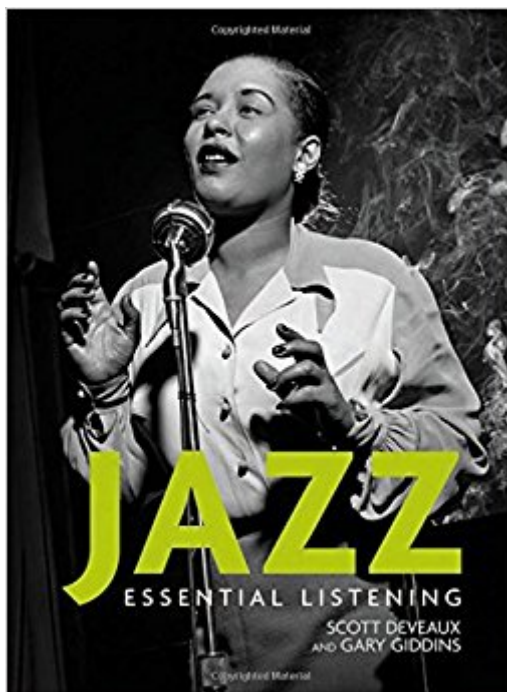


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# Jazz: Essential Listening



## Synopsis

The #1 text in the market – now in an Essentials Edition. Jazz: Essential Listening provides all the materials students need to listen to, understand, and love jazz. Written by two master storytellers, this new brief text combines a dynamic listening experience with vivid narrative history, must-hear masterworks, and a superior eMedia package to reveal the excitement of America's quintessential music. Authors Scott DeVeaux and Gary Giddins write with intellectual bite, eloquence, and the passion of unabashed fans. They explain what jazz is, where it came from, how it works, and who created it, all within the broader context of American life and culture.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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! -- David Baker, Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Jazz Department, Indiana University

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. -- Ishmael Reed, author of *Mixing It Up: Taking On the Media Bullies and Other Reflections* 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 facets-and as a living, still evolving language. -- Dan Morgenstern, director of the Institute of Jazz Studies, Rutgers University, and author of *Livin'* 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 depth-and with passion. -- George E. Lewis, Case Professor of American Music, Columbia University, and author of *A Power Struggle* This extraordinary book is the one we've been waiting for-an 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. -- Krin Gabbard, author of *Hotter Than That: The Trumpet, Jazz, and American Culture*

Scott DeVeaux is a nationally recognized jazz scholar whose 1997 book *The Birth of Bebop: A Social and Musical History* won the American Book Award, an ASCAP Deems Taylor Award, the Otto Kinkeldey Award from the American Musicological Society, and the ARSC Award for Excellence in Historical Sound Research. He has taught jazz history at the University of Virginia for more than 25 years. Gary Giddins is the Executive Director of the Leon Levy Center for Biography at the City University of New York. He was the *Village Voice* jazz columnist for over 30 years and remains a preeminent jazz critic who received the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Ralph J. Gleason Music Book Award, and the Bell Atlantic Award for *Visions of Jazz: The First Century* in 1998. His other books include *Bing Crosby: A Pocketful of Dreams: The Early Years, 1903-1940*, which won the Ralph J. Gleason Music Book Award and the ARSC Award for Excellence in Historical Sound Research; *Weatherbird: Jazz at the Dawn of Its Second Century*; *Faces in the Crowd*; *Natural Selection*; *Warning Shadows*; and biographies of Louis Armstrong and Charlie Parker. He has won an unparalleled six ASCAP Deems Taylor Awards, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Peabody Award in Broadcasting.

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 interested in jazz. I got it for class but would like to go back some day and read it for recreational purposes.

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