

# Jazz Is Nat Hentoff: A Legendary Critic's Enduring Legacy



## Jazz Is by Nat Hentoff

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Word Wise : Enabled

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Nat Hentoff, one of the most influential jazz critics of all time, left an indelible mark on the world of music and beyond. His incisive writing, unwavering integrity, and passionate advocacy for social justice have inspired generations.

In "Jazz Is Nat Hentoff," acclaimed author and journalist Benjamin Ratliff presents a comprehensive and engrossing biography that captures the essence of this remarkable figure. Through meticulous research, exclusive interviews, and a wealth of previously unpublished material, Ratliff paints a vivid portrait of Hentoff's life, career, and enduring legacy.

## **Early Life and Influences**

Born in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood in 1925, Nat Hentoff grew up immersed in a vibrant cultural scene. His parents were passionate about music, literature, and social activism, nurturing his own early interests.

As a teenager, Hentoff discovered jazz through the recordings of Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, and other bebop pioneers. He became an avid attendee of concerts and immersed himself in the music.

## **Emergence as a Critic**

Hentoff's writing career began as a young reporter for the Harvard Crimson. His sharp wit and keen observations soon caught the attention of DownBeat magazine, where he became a staff writer in 1951.

At DownBeat, Hentoff established himself as a fearless and insightful critic. His reviews were known for their depth, intelligence, and refusal to pull punches. He praised groundbreaking artists like Miles Davis, John

Coltrane, and Ornette Coleman, while also challenging established conventions and advocating for artistic integrity.

## **Expanding Horizons**

In the 1960s, Hentoff's influence extended beyond DownBeat. He became a regular contributor to The Village Voice, where his writings on jazz, civil rights, and the counterculture gained widespread attention.

Hentoff's commitment to social justice was evident in his writings, which often addressed issues of race, inequality, and censorship. He became a vocal advocate for the First Amendment and a staunch defender of free expression.

## **Later Career and Legacy**

Throughout his long and illustrious career, Hentoff continued to write extensively on jazz, authoring countless articles, liner notes, and several books. He also served as a mentor and guiding light for aspiring musicians and critics.

Nat Hentoff passed away in 2017, leaving behind a rich legacy as a critic, commentator, and social activist. His writings continue to inspire and challenge readers, reminding us of the power of music and the importance of fighting for what we believe in.

## **Praise for "Jazz Is Nat Hentoff"**

*"Benjamin Ratliff has given us a masterful and moving portrait of one of the most important figures in jazz history. 'Jazz Is Nat Hentoff' is an essential read for anyone who cares about music, culture, and the struggle for justice." - Wynton Marsalis, trumpeter and composer*

*"This book is a testament to Nat Hentoff's enduring legacy. Ratliff's meticulous research and captivating storytelling capture the essence of a true icon."* - Jon Pareles, music critic, The New York Times

*"A fascinating and illuminating biography of a towering figure in jazz. 'Jazz Is Nat Hentoff' is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of music and the role of art in society."* - Ted Gioia, author of "The History of Jazz"

Nat Hentoff's life and work are a testament to the power of music to inspire, challenge, and change the world. "Jazz Is Nat Hentoff" is a fitting tribute to this legendary critic, whose legacy continues to shape our understanding of jazz, culture, and social justice.

Whether you are a jazz aficionado, a student of American history, or simply someone who values the power of the written word, "Jazz Is Nat Hentoff" is a book that will resonate with you. It is a story of a man who lived his life with passion, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to the highest ideals.

Free Download your copy of "Jazz Is Nat Hentoff" today and embark on a journey into the world of one of the most influential figures in jazz and beyond.

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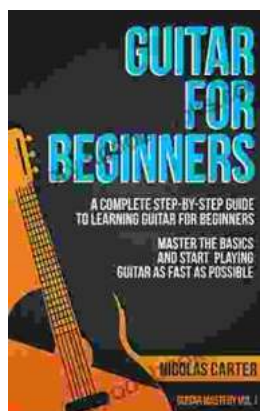
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