



The Jazz Tradition

By Martin Williams

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The Jazz Tradition By Martin Williams

When it was first published in 1970, this lively and fascinating book was greeted with almost universal acclaim. *The American Record Guide* called it "the best one-volume of jazz we have," and the *Jazz Journal* praised it as "a brilliant study of the whole of jazz." Perhaps the greatest tribute was paid by Louis Armstrong himself who raved: "it held Ol' Satch spellbound." Now thoroughly revised and expanded, the new edition of *The Jazz Tradition* offers readers a unique history of jazz, as seen through its greatest practitioners.

An original blend of history and criticism, this book explores the work of nearly two dozen leading musicians and ensembles that have shaped the course of jazz, from King Oliver's Creole Jazz band to the present day. Couched in the same readable, non-technical language that made earlier editions so popular, *The Jazz Tradition* adds new chapters on some of the more recent giants of jazz, performers like pianist Bill Evans, versatile horn player and saxophonist Eric Dolphy, and the World Saxophone Quartet, and considerably expands the chapter devoted to Count Basie. In addition, a foreword by Richard Crawford introduces the new edition, and the discographies on each performer have been fully brought up to date. Written by an author *The Washington Post* lauded as "the most knowledgeable, open-minded, and perceptive American jazz critic today," *The Jazz Tradition* belongs in the library of all lovers of this distinctly American sound.

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The Jazz Tradition By Martin Williams Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Martin Williams, who died in 1993, exerted an enormous influence on America's dialogue about jazz. He directed the Smithsonian Institute's jazz program, oversaw reissues on LP, cassette, and compact disc, and wrote a slew of books on the topic. His most lasting legacy, however, may be this compact volume, which appeared in a revised and expanded version in 1992. Williams approaches his material with a New Critical bent, analyzing specific performances--sometimes even specific phrases--in search of improvisational gold. But he brings a new clarity to everything he touches, from Jelly Roll Morton to the World Saxophone Quartet. And while Williams liked to keep his prose free of rhetorical fireworks, he's quite capable of registering the sublime. Here, for example, he sets the record straight on late-period Louis Armstrong: "Well into his 60s, Armstrong would play on some evenings in an astonishing way--astonishing not so much because of what he played as that he played it with such power, sureness, firmness, authority, such commanding presence as to be beyond category, almost (as they say of Beethoven's late quartets) to be beyond music."

Review

"Excellent essays help the student understand the musicians involved."--Stephen Stone, University of Oregon

"Martin Williams is perhaps our greatest living jazz critic."--Guenther Schuller

"Read anything of Williams you can lay your hands on....His knowledge of jazz is all but unmatched."--Washington Review

"Martin Williams persistently gets at essences, and that is why he has contributed so much to the very small body of authentic jazz criticism."--Nat Hentoff

"Readers...will without a doubt find in Williams the most coherent and clear-minded guide to the essences of jazz performance they have ever encountered. He remains truly the critic's critic."--Jack Sohmer, The Mississippi Rag

From the Back Cover

Now thoroughly revised and expanded, this new edition of The Jazz Tradition offers readers a unique history of jazz, portrayed through the lives of its greatest practitioners.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Thomas Rasmussen:

This book untitled The Jazz Tradition to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, this is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retail outlet or you can order it by using online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, as you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason to you to past this publication from your list.

Louis McCarthy:

The reason? Because this The Jazz Tradition is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap that but latter it will surprise you with the secret it inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who else write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book include such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking means. So , still want to delay having that book? If I had been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

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Elizabeth Nicholson:

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