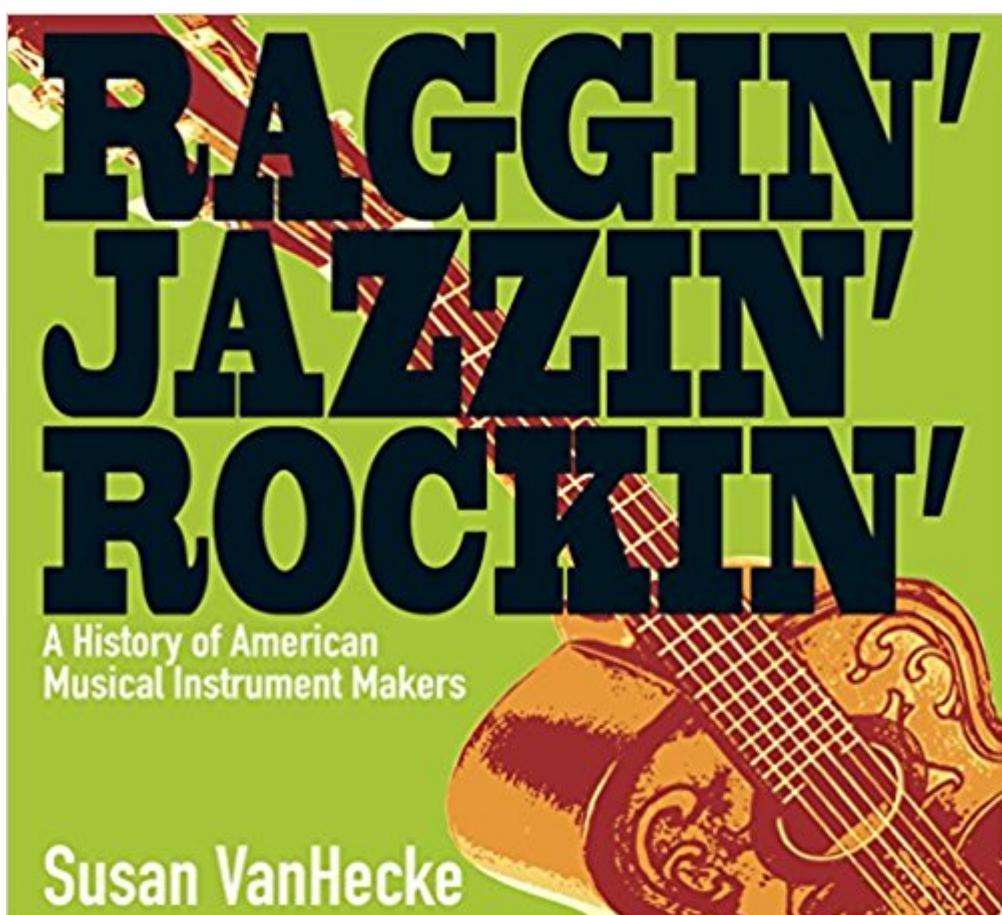


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# Raggin' Jazzin' Rockin': A History Of American Musical Instrument Makers



## **Synopsis**

2012 American Library Association Notable Children's BookÂ 2012 YALSA-ALA Excellence in Young Adult Nonfiction NomineeMeet the inventors and innovators who defined American music history. A radio repairman named Leo Fender imagined a solid-body electric guitar. The inventor of 3-D glasses, Laurens Hammond, envisioned an electric organ in every home. And a German carpenter named Steinway immigrated to New York City with the dream of designing the greatest piano in the world. From Steinway's pianos, Bob Moog's synthesizers, and C.G. Conn's band instruments to Avedis Zildjian's cymbals, William Ludwig's drums, C.F. Martin's guitars, and more, noted music writer VanHecke offers a fascinating, insider view of the personalities and perseverance that led to some of music's most important innovations - from classical to jazz to rock. Includes more than 200 photos, many rare and vintage, plus source notes.Â Full color. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of each book will be donated to SupportMusic, a music education advocacy effort seeking to improve access and opportunity in music and arts learning. Support Music is a public service initiative of the NAMM Foundation, a nonprofit organization established by the National Association of Music Merchants. Its mission is to advance active participation in music-making.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 1090L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 140 pages

Publisher: Boyds Mills Press (April 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1590785746

ISBN-13: 978-1590785744

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 11.2 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,197,901 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Jazz #78 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Instruments #139 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > History

Age Range: 11 - 18 years

Grade Level: 6 and up

## Customer Reviews

"Absorbing history. . . . Examining the effect of the Great Depression, the World Wars and immigration on these family businesses vibrantly contextualizes those issues for kids. Numerous well-captioned photos and period illustrations, sidebars and clearly labeled diagrams of the musical instruments expertly extend the text." --Kirkus Reviews"Â handsome, clearly written book on a topic seldom presented to young people."--Booklist"From the country music of Bill Monroe and the classics of JohnÂ Phillip Sousa to the jazz of drummer Buddy Rich and rock-and-roll legends John Bonham and guitarist Eric Clapton--readers will enjoy this back stage pass to the history of American musical instrument makers."--Voice of Youth Advocates

Susan VanHecke is the author of many books about music, includingÂ Rock 'N' Roll Soldier: A Memoir, with Dean Ellis Kohler, foreword by Graham Nash; Roadwork: Rock & Roll Turned Inside Out, with Tom Wright, foreword by Pete Townshend; Three Steps to Heaven: The Eddie Cochran Story, with Bobby Cochran; and Race With the Devil: Gene Vincent's Life in the Fast Lane. She lives in Virginia.

Great research and photos guide the young reader to a full understanding of the evolution of modern day musical instruments.

Lots of details, and excellent illustration and graphics. Interesting selection of instrument makers, but there are lot remaining for future books.

Just as technological innovations have brought an enormous range of machines, devices, and gadgets into our lives, innovations in the design and production of musical instruments have enriched the types and quality of sounds we enjoy hearing. Inventions and improvements of musical instruments served as seeds for the business success of several American-based entrepreneurs. These entrepreneurs include Heinrich Steinway and his sons, creators of a tremendously successful piano company; William Ludwig, a maker of drums so renowned for quality that Ringo Starr from the Beatles had the Ludwig name painted in large letters across his drumhead; and Leo Fender, developer of one of the most popular electric guitars in history. These and other inventors of influential musical instruments had a keen understanding of how to produce new sounds and also how to grow their companies in changing economic times. This historical picture book provides an informative account of the development of eight U.S.-based companies

that produce musical instruments, beginning with the early days of the founding fathers. Short vignettes of popular musicians who helped make these instruments a household name help to liven up the narrative. Although all eight company founders are white men, the author does make a consistent attempt to emphasize the role of women and African Americans in running these companies and playing the instruments as they advanced in their own careers.

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