

Hot Jazz Special



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Synopsis

Grab your porkpie hat and groove to the swinging artwork and syncopated text of this introduction to nine of the hottest jazz artists of all time. Join young Henry at the Body & Soul Cafe and enter a world of hipsters, flipsters, and finger-poppin' daddiesâ "where to jump is to jive and to bop is to be! Some of the greatest names in jazz are about to hit the scene, ready to blow those blues away. Meet Jelly Roll Morton, Django Reinhardt, Walter Page, Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, Gene Krupa, Billie Holliday, Charlie Parker, and Duke Ellington, all on one stage for a night you'll never forget. Jonny Hannah has created a one-night special of red-hot rhymes and bold poster-style art that captures the rhythms and feel of jazz for newcomers and fans alike. Musicians' biographies at the end offer suggested listening for savoring the true flavor of each cat's style.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

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Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

Grade 3-4â "An ambitious attempt to introduce children to eight jazz greats. Some of the names may be familiar as they have been the subject of juvenile biographiesâ "Jonah Winter's *Once Upon a Time in Chicago: The Story of Benny Goodman* (Hyperion, 2000) and Chris Raschka's *Charlie Parker Played Be Bop* (Scholastic, 1992)â "but others, such as Django Reinhardt and Jelly Roll Morton, most probably will not. The text is not likely to remedy that as the verse is strained and awkward: "The playing gets faster/as busy as a one-legged tap dancer!/No one is a match./this cat is more than up to scratch." Hand-lettered text changes size, color, and style as often as 12 times per page, and runs vertically and diagonally, making it almost indecipherable. The acrylic, ink, and

digital collage illustrations seem frantic rather than exuberant. The brief biographies appended do little to illuminate their subjects. The fact that children are told to unfold the book jacket (a poster is revealed) will strike the final sour note for librarians.â “Grace Oliff, Ann Blanche Smith School, Hillsdale, NJ

Gr. 4-6. "HEEBIE JEEBIES! Let's jump & jive! When Satchmo scats, the dead come alive!" With wild, neon-bright, eye-filling graphics, a jacket that folds out into a poster, and hand-lettered lyrics blown to every corner of the page (and reprised somewhat more sedately at the end), Hannah pays tribute to nine old-time jazz greats. From Jelly Roll Morton on piano to Billie Holliday on vocals, he gathers them into a dream band led by (who else?) Duke Ellington, then urges young readers, viewers, and listeners to get into the groove. Hannah closes with biographical snippets and a recommended cut for each of his icons, but he is occasionally careless with fact; he notes that Django Reinhardt lost two fingers on his left hand, but the guitarist appears to have the full complement in Hannah's art. He catches that spirit of the music perfectly, however, making this a swinging, bopping soul mate both to Chris Raschka's jazzy portraits and to Morgan Monceaux's Jazz: My Music, My People (1994). John PetersCopyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

If, like me, you do a double-take when you see a used book on for a penny....."one cent, REALLY???".....You will stand up and shimmy when you receive Jonny Hannah's book, "Hot Jazz Special". The emphasis here is on "special" -- Stacked/fabulous/outlandish hand lettering andneon-fresh colors and graphics. The spirit of this book absolutely radiates with energy, hipness, joie de vivre, finger-snapping fun, and spot-on smart graphics and illustration. This is a love poem, on high volume, to the world of jazz and it's most noted practitioners. And, at this price, you could buy up a flock of them, and share them with your music-loving friends. As if you needed another excuse to order, this beautifully-designed book also includes a cover that just happens to be an amazing Hannah-designed poster. Hotcha-cha!

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