

What Is This Thing Called Jazz?: Insights and Opinions from the Players

Batt Johnson

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There is no better authority on jazz than the creators, educators, and writers who have made this enigmatic musical style a major force internationally as well as in American history. The answer to the question what is jazz? is as complex and diverse as those involved in it. This book takes the question to noted musicians, scholars, and composers, creating a documentary style of oral history that makes you feel as if you are actually in the room as they put the sounds they know as music into words. The ideas from these authentic, personal voices of authority provide a unique perspective that will enlighten the novice and stimulate the professional.Ron Carter, Bassist-Because they are improvising does not necessarily mean that it is jazzBuddy Rich, Drums-Trane to Bird, Diz to Miles, all in the family of jazz, just different children. Ray Charles, Singer/Pianist-Jazz is the freedom to do what you wantwithin the confines of the chord structure. Milt Jackson, Vibraphonist-"The era of bebop represents jazz to me. Chet Baker, Trumpet-Paris Jazz is a hard swinging rhythm section witheverybody playing with the same time feeling.



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