



Biographies of Jazz and Blues Singers and Musicians

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Princess Noire the Tumultuous Reign of Nina Simone By Nadine Cohodas
Read by Celeste Lawson Reading time 16 hours, 7 minutes
Biography of musician Nina Simone (1933-2003) chronicles her training as a classical pianist, foray into singing and jazz, and rise from Atlantic City clubs to the Newport Jazz Festival and European venues. Discusses Simone's financial troubles, civil rights involvement, and mental illness that affected her career and personal life. 2010.

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Late Life Jazz the Life and Career of Rosemary Clooney by Ken Crossland
Read by Robert Sams Reading time 15 hours, 30 minutes
Biography of singer Rosemary Clooney (1928-2002), aunt of movie star George Clooney, chronicles her life as she traveled from Kentucky to Hollywood. Highlights her 1940s Big Band career, her starring role in the 1954 film White Christmas alongside Bing Crosby, and her 1970s comeback as a jazz singer. 2013.

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Music is My Mistress By Duke Ellington

Read by Peter Jay Fernandez Reading time 17 hours, 50 minutes

Autobiography of bandleader, composer, and jazz musician Duke Ellington (1899-1974). Describes Ellington's childhood in Washington, D.C., his fellow artists, his 1923 arrival in New York City, subsequent worldwide tours, and his philosophy of life. 1973.

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Hand Me My Travelin' Shoes in Search of Blind Willie McTell By Michael Gray

Read by Jake Williams Reading time 18 hours, 10 minutes

Author Michael Gray recounts his odyssey through the Deep South to research this biography of Georgia blues singer and twelve-string guitarist William Samuel McTell (1903-1959), who was born blind. Portrays Willie's travels and performances during the segregation era and the way his reputation grew after his death. 2009.

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Also available on digital cartridge DB071430

When I Left Home My Story By Buddy Guy

Read by Mirron E. Willis Reading time 7 hours, 29 minutes

Legendary blues guitarist Buddy Guy (born 1936) reminisces about growing up as the son of Louisiana sharecroppers, moving to Chicago in 1957 and playing in nightclubs, and working with Muddy Waters, B.B. King, Junior Wells, Eric Clapton, and the Rolling Stones. Strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2012.

[Download from BARD: When I Left Home My Story](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB075698

Thelonious Monk the Life and Times of an American Original By Robin D.G. Kelley

Read by Julian Thompson Reading time 34 hours, 47 minutes
Historian chronicles the life of jazz pianist and composer Thelonious Sphere Monk (1917-1982), from his poverty-stricken childhood in North Carolina to his reclusive final years in New York City. Discusses Monk's musical influences, unique playing style, artistic collaborations, eccentric behavior, and influential oeuvre--much of which became jazz standards. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Thelonious Monk the Life and Times of an...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB071039

The Uncrowned King of Swing Fletcher Henderson and Big Band Jazz By Jeffrey Magee

Read by Roy Avers Reading time 16 hours, 29 minutes
Music professor's biography of the African American musician credits Henderson with devising the arranging formula that made Benny Goodman the King of Swing. Portrays Henderson as a pianist and bandleader who "profoundly shaped American jazz...during the 1920s and 1930s." Describes Henderson's work with Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie, and others. 2005.

[Download from BARD: The Uncrowned King of Swing Fletcher...](#)

Also available on cassette RC060620

Coltrane: the Story of a Sound By Ben Ratliff

Read by Julian Thompson Reading time 8 hours, 48 minutes
New York Times jazz critic analyzes the performance style of saxophonist John Coltrane (1926-1967), from his 1946 recordings as a navy bandsman and 1950s improvisational experimentation to his 1961 breakthrough song, "My Favorite Things." Discusses Coltrane's openness to other cultures and influence on other musicians. Some strong language. 2007.

[Download from BARD: Coltrane: the Story of a Sound](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB066428

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W.C. Handy the Life and Times of the Man who Made the Blues By David Robertson

Read by Jake Williams

Reading time 11 hours, 31 minutes

Biography of William Christopher Handy (1873-1958) traces his Alabama childhood during Reconstruction, his musical training, and his early career performing in ragtime and vaudeville venues. Highlights Handy's ability to write scores and publish commercially, his relocation to Memphis and then Harlem, and the accident that blinded him. 2009.

[Download from BARD W.C Handy the Life and Times of the Man who...](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB069060

Duke a Life of Duke Ellington By Terry Teachout

Read by Jake Williams

Reading time 19 hours, 57 minutes

Wall Street Journal drama critic profiles jazz virtuoso Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington (1899-1974). Details Ellington's early life in Washington, D.C., as the son of a butler and grandson of a slave, his personal relationships, and his career as a bandleader and composer. 2013.

[Download from BARD: Duke a Life of Duke Ellington](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB077714

Pops a Life of Louis Armstrong By Terry Teachout

Read by Conrad Feininger

Reading time 15 hours, 5 minutes

Biography of jazz musician Louis Armstrong by a drama critic and former musician. Uses newly available material to portray the trumpeter in the contexts of his time. Traces Armstrong's impoverished childhood in turn-of-the-twentieth-century New Orleans, his ascent in the music world, and his personal life. Some strong language. 2009.

[Download from BARD: Pops a Life of Louis Armstrong](#)

Also available on digital cartridge DB072358

Escaping the Delta Robert Johnson and the Invention of the Blues By

Elijah Wald

Read by Julian Thompson Reading time 14 hours, 40 minutes

Author of *How the Beatles Destroyed Rock 'n' Roll* (DB 71861) researches the origins of Mississippi Delta blues. Recaps the life of African American singer Robert Johnson (1911-1938) and his influence on white performers who revived the genre in the 1960s. Debunks stereotypes and myths surrounding the music. 2004.

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