



Cómo escuchar jazz (Noema)

Ted Gioia

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Gioia nos presenta una introducción al arte de escuchar jazz: la estructura de la música, los cimientos de la improvisación, y las estrategias de escucha que ayudarán al lector a amar el jazz durante el resto de su vida. Un recorrido por los autores, los artistas, los temas, las versiones y los sonidos que le abrirán las puertas del jazz.

Cómo escuchar jazz (Noema) Details

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Author : Ted Gioia

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From Reader Review *Cómo escuchar jazz* (Noema) for online ebook

Iris Nu?u says

4.5 stars, actually. I only give ? ? ? ? ? to books that I feel I could start reading again the moment I have read the last word on the last page, which is obviously not the case right now - but still. This was amazing.

I've just finished reading this book (and when I say reading I mean reading & listening to Gioia's recommendations) and I've been sitting here for the last couple of minutes, listening to random jazz on Spotify, having coffee and a cigarette and simply being grateful that such a book exists.

Because I believe that, given the way in which jazz is commonly perceived nowadays - especially by my generation - we are in great need of such writings. I imagine that the cases in which this book miraculously lands in the hands of a person who does not know anything about or has no appreciation whatsoever for jazz are very rare and that most of Ted Gioia's readers are already genuinely interested in the subject. But I still think that the mere existence of this book might influence someone to reconsider their feelings towards this genre - and that's honestly enough for me. Because, although indeed sophisticated and complex, jazz has never been and should never be considered an unfathomable kind of music. Jazz is for everyone. And that's precisely what Ted Gioia wanted us to remember, when he wrote *How to Listen to Jazz*.

Jury Razumau says

Spotify playlists: <https://open.spotify.com/user/razumau...>, <https://open.spotify.com/user/razumau...>

Bob O'bannon says

There are so many people who love jazz, and who speak of it with such passion and devotion, that I have always concluded that my own indifference to the genre must be the fault of me, not the music. So what could be more fitting than a book titled "How to Listen to Jazz"?

It is clear that Ted Gioia not only loves jazz, but wants you to love it too. In clear and understandable language, he explains essential musical concepts as dynamics, phrasing, pitch, and personality. He gives helpful summaries of the major sub genres of jazz – swing, bebop, cool jazz, fusion, etc., while also explaining the significance of jazz giants like Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Miles Davis and John Coltrane. And he does it all without a hint of elitism or condescension.

Probably most helpful to me as a fan primarily of pop, rock and folk is the realization that jazz is not focused on replication. Every other musical genre seeks to repeat what was originally written and recorded, but with jazz, the distinctive element is spontaneity. Jazz is never the same, which explains why you'll see so many jazz artists doing their own versions of the same classic songs. Jazz's goal is not to repeat the song, but to explore it, reinvent it, and even deconstruct it. In contrast to the "realm of perfect replication," jazz is for those "who want to be in attendance when the miracle happens." (49).

I doubt my love for jazz will ever match Gioia's, but as a result of reading this helpful book, I am at least

motivated to open my ears and listen.

Scott says

(Spoiler: there is no wrong way!)

Axel says

How to Listen to Jazz is a worthy tribute to the jazz heroes of the twentieth century. I can't imagine a better introduction to jazz than this book. Gioia succeeds at finding structure in a genre which consists largely of improvisation and feeling, and gives a spot on analysis. For newcomers to jazz, he includes numerous examples of masterpieces to listen to. The more advanced listeners will enjoy the extensive analysis he gives on various jazz styles, after which you will develop even more appreciation for the jazz greats.

Sadly, jazz is disappearing from popular culture. Many artists are discouraged of producing new albums, because they aren't very profitable. We will probably never encounter a new Louis Armstrong or Charlie Parker, innovators of the bandstand who had the whole world's attention. Gioia makes an interesting case: he states that this is not the result of a lack of artists, but an abundance of them. The result of an overflow of jazz performers (even if they aren't as high profile as they were before) is that the attention isn't fixed on just one great artist, because there are just too many of them. You just have to seek them out.

Popebrak says

I'm a recovering death-metal DJ. . . this was very helpful.

J.D. says

Extremely helpful and accessible introduction to Jazz history and styles. I'd recommend this to anyone new to the genre as well as existing Jazz lovers who want to become better listeners of and understand the sub-genres. While I know that not every sub-genre will necessarily be my "cup of Tea (for Two, or Two for Tea)" I appreciate Gioia's even-handed approach to the music and his way of explaining the significance of these innovations to Jazz over time definitely makes me look forward to listening to his recommended discographies.

Based on Gioia's recommendations, I created my own Spotify playlists here and tried to order them as much as possible in the order they are referenced in his book:

For chapters 1-5: https://open.spotify.com/user/hic_sun...

For chapter 6 - Jazz innovators:

Pre-Louis Armstrong:

https://open.spotify.com/user/hic_sun...

Louis Armstrong:
https://open.spotify.com/user/hic_sun...
Coleman Hawkins:
https://open.spotify.com/user/hic_sun...
Duke Ellington:
https://open.spotify.com/user/hic_sun...
Billie Holiday:
https://open.spotify.com/user/hic_sun...
Charlie Parker:
https://open.spotify.com/user/hic_sun...
Thelonius Monk:
https://open.spotify.com/user/hic_sun...
Miles Davis:
https://open.spotify.com/user/hic_sun...
John Coltrane:
https://open.spotify.com/user/hic_sun...
Ornette Coleman:
https://open.spotify.com/user/hic_sun...

Marla says

I don't really agree with the majority of the reviews that say this was a great beginner book on jazz. I'm a beginner. Not having much of a musical background, I really got bogged down in the musical jargon and theory. I can read music and played years ago, but even that little bit did not help me with this book. The author would state that he could explain the complexities of jazz to the most inexperienced listener, in simple language. Then he would go into, what for me was a very complicated explanation of rhythms, riffs, notes and time signatures . Parts of it read like a wine connoisseur describing the nuances of a Cabernet.

I found some of his statements hard to swallow. The one that stands out was his claim that some jazz musicians have gotten an undeserved reputation of being violent, abusers (my word), difficult to get along with...his theory being that no one that could perform such masterpieces could possibly do such things (Miles Davis for one). IMO, abusers and jerks can be creative just like anyone else. I took issue with his lack of representation of women in the book, namely Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald but it's his book and he must have had a difficult time deciding who to include and who not to (benefit of the doubt).

However, the history and the evolution were fascinating to read. There is no doubt that Gioia is a very good writer and knowledgeable jazz historian. I loved his list of 150 present day jazz musicians to check out. My book club of seasoned jazz listeners concurred with his list and I have many highlighted to listen to. He gives listening suggestions along the way and I listened as I read. I highly suggest taking your time and doing the same (unless you are already familiar with these pieces, I wasn't). 3-1/2*, 4-1/2* if I hadn't had to wade through the technical jargon (first half of the book).

Scott says

How to Listen to Jazz, by Ted Gioia, is a pleasant, chatty book that isn't as pedagogic as the title might

suggest. To be sure, Gioia does provide many clues and tips on how to listen to this most vibrant style of music, but many of them would apply to any style. He also doesn't give a simple list of names, and tell the reader to go listen to these records, though he does give many suggestions, and some lists. It also doesn't quite fulfill its promise to explain how music critics reach the conclusions that they do. More precisely, Gioia's book is one critic's approach to the music. He does nicely suggest how to tell the difference between great music and mediocre music, and ways to teach yourself to do that. (Hint, go listen to some bad music, then listen to some music generally regarded as great.)

Nevertheless, this is an enjoyable read that should spur any casual listener of jazz to seek out more. For example, I am now more motivated to listen to the music of Louis Armstrong and his predecessors than I was before. I always acknowledged his influence, but after reading *How To Listen To Jazz*, I understand a little better *why* Armstrong was so influential. There is also an enticing list of prominent current jazz artists in an appendix that are well worth seeking out.

Guy says

Well written, but foremost aimed at (and useful for) newcomers to jazz.

Steve Carroll says

really wonderful. I'm reading this as someone who has some experience listening to jazz but I feel this works for both beginners and more causal fans. he covers both what to listen for in the music as well as a concise history of the genre, a catalog of the most common styles and key artists. works best when read with a Spotify subscription and YouTube nearby for the full effect to take advantage of the many suggested listening selections.

Martin says

Hands down, one of the best books on jazz I have ever read. And easily the best book on trying to explain jazz. If you are just dipping a toe in the great ocean that is jazz, or if you have been enjoying this music for decades, this is a book that will increase your understanding and enjoyment of this music. It's already altered the way I listen to music, and I've been listening to jazz since the early eighties. I think it helps that Ted Gioia is a musician himself. *How to listen to jazz* is also very refreshingly free of ideology. Ted Gioia simply wants you to listen to and enjoy the music for its own sake. I cannot recommend this book highly enough.

Rian Merwe says

This was fantastic. Highly recommended. The first half is about the feel, structure, and meaning of jazz. The second half goes through the history of jazz, its biggest names, and some listening recommendations.

Marc says

Picked this up while randomly perusing the shelves at the library. It turned out to be a delight. Gioia is as big a fan of jazz as he is a learned critic. He starts out by talking about really using your ears to listen to the music, gives a little background on rhythm and structure, then moves from the origins of jazz through each type of style/era (complete with recommended songs/artists for each period of innovation), and then closes with some of his favorite innovators (Louis Armstrong, Coleman Hawkins, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Charlie Parker, Thelonious Monk, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, and Ornette Coleman).

I was going to try list and link to all the recommendations, but there are just too many. Instead, I'll simply link to a few of my favorite jazz songs below this review.

WORD I LEARNED WHILE READING THIS BOOK

ostinato

A few of my favorites...

- "Watermelon Song" (William Parker)
- "Blue Pepper" (Duke Ellington)
- "C Jam Blues" (Louis Armstrong)
- "Turnaround" (Joshua Redman)
- "Bird's Lament" (Moondog)
- "My Funny Valentine" (Sarah Vaughan)
- "Blue Moon" (Billie Holiday)
- "Paranoid Android" (Brad Mehldau)
- "Mad World" (Postmodern Jukebox)

Olive (abookolive) says

See my review on booktube: <https://youtu.be/C2I8BevGXII>
