



Blue Note Records: The Biography

By Richard Cook

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Blue Note Records is more than just a label. It is the heart of jazz. This book, chronicles the life of the most famous and influential jazz label of them all.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Now a division of Capitol Records, Blue Note was a pioneer in jazz's golden age, serving as a breeding ground for legends such as Sidney Bechet, Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, Kenny Burrell, Miles Davis, Thelonious Monk, Bud Powell, Sonny Rollins and Horace Silver. In this landmark book, jazz writer Cook (co-author of *The Penguin Guide to Jazz on CD*) presents a history of the label, from its 1939 start producing hot jazz and swing records to its current projects, which include releasing Norah Jones's top-selling 2002 record, *Come Away With Me*. Eschewing tales of boardroom politics and pages of record reviews for an overall picture of how Blue Note's "mystique grew up, and how it endures," the book is more than just the chronicle of a company. It shows how far jazz, and, by extension, popular music, have come in the past 60-odd years.

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Review

"Cook paints a memorable picture--his dry turn of phrase enlivens every chapter."

From the Inside Flap

"Blue Note records are designed simply to serve the uncompromising expression of hot jazz and swing, in general. Any particular style of playing which represents an authentic way of musical feeling is genuine expression. By virtue of its significance in place, time and circumstance, it possesses its own tradition, artistic standards and audience that keeps it alive. Hot jazz, therefore, is expression and communication, a musical and social manifestation, and Blue Note Records are concerned with identifying its impulse, not its sensational and commercial adornments."—from a flyer for one of Blue Note's early releases, dated May, 1939.

Blue Note Records is arguably the single most recognizable record label in the history of recorded music. To millions of jazz fans around the world, Blue Note is more than a business, more than a back catalogue of extraordinary music, even more than an exciting sound and a distinctive look. It is the heart of jazz. It is Miles Davis, Thelonious Monk, Bud Powell, Sonny Rollins, Horace Silver, Kenny Burrell, and the ubiquitous Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers — all making their most significant early recordings under the auspices of the Blue Note genius.

Blue Note Records: The Biography chronicles the life of the most famous and influential jazz label of them all.

Here is the detailed history of the label from the beginning days in 1939 when two German immigrants, Alfred Lion and Francis Wolff, began recording and releasing the hot jazz that they loved. It's all here, from the development, to the rise, fall and rebirth. From Sidney Bechet to Norah Jones, Richard Cook examines life behind the scenes and a parallel analysis of all the major records released throughout Blue Note's history.

The pioneering label of jazz's golden age, Blue Note Records is still a conspicuous arbiter of style that continues to have influence. Richard Cook captures the subtle art of Rudy van Gelder's distinctive, oft-imitated recording techniques, Francis Wolff's invaluable jazz photography, and Reid Miles' cool, trend-setting album designs which together set the standard that became – and continues to be — the classic

symbol of the best in jazz.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Keith Cochran:

The feeling that you get from Blue Note Records: The Biography will be the more deep you searching the information that hide inside the words the more you get considering reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to recognise but Blue Note Records: The Biography giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in selected way that can be understood by means of anyone who read it because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having this Blue Note Records: The Biography instantly.

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