

Wooten, Victor. *The Music Lesson: A Spiritual Search for Growth Through Music*

From Grammy-winning musical icon and legendary bassist Victor L. Wooten comes *The Music Lesson*, the story of a struggling young musician who wanted music to be his life, and who wanted his life to be great. Then, from nowhere it seemed, a teacher arrived. Part musical genius, part philosopher, part eccentric wise man, the teacher would guide the young musician on a spiritual journey, and teach him that the gifts we get from music mirror those from life, and every movement, phrase, and chord has its own meaning. All you have to do is find the song inside.

Yagoda, Ben. *The B-Side: The Death of Tin Pan Alley and the Rebirth of the Great American Song*

Yagoda ties the progression of music to the social issues of the day and keeps it interesting with the "dirt" on the beginnings of payola and the decades-long feud between Mitch Miller and Frank Sinatra. We may be proud of our native son, Mitch, but apparently he wasn't the nicest of guys. He ran roughshod over writers and singers, only promoting when there was something in it for him and not necessarily because it was the best music. Yagoda's disdain for the music of the late 50's with Elvis and his ilk is obvious. Luckily those short years were the starting years for the greats of the 60's and the revival of the Great American Songbook.

Companion Music: Increase your reading pleasure by listening to the music Yagoda is talking about. Several artists have produced their own versions of the Great American Songbook. Willie Nelson, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Mel Tormé, Rod Stewart, and Johnny Cash versions are available at the library. There is also a great CD set, *Great American Songbook: Ladies of Song*, that has many of the original artists like Dinah Washington, Rosemary Clooney, and Billie Holiday.

Note: The Arts Division has an extensive collection of music scores. Broadway piano/vocal scores, pop music songbooks, and classical scores make up the majority of this collection, but the Central Library also has folk music, holiday songbooks, hymnals, and music instruction books. If you are looking for the music for a particular song, let the Arts Division staff use the DOREMI database of sheet music to find out which book contains the song that you need.

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related CDs available at libraries in the
Monroe County Library System



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READ TO THE BEAT: Music @ The Library

Bertino, Marie-Helene. *2 A.M. at the Cat's Pajamas*

Madeline is a smart-mouthed nine-year-old struggling to fit in after the death of her mother. She was an aspiring jazz singer who learned how to sing from her mother. After a day of mishaps and bullying by her classmates, Madeline finds herself making her onstage debut at a real jazz club!

Byrne, David. *How Music Works*

Best known as a founding member and principal songwriter of the band Talking Heads, David Byrne has received Grammy, Oscar, and Golden Globe awards and has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. In the insightful *How Music Works*, Byrne offers his unique perspective on music—including how music is shaped by time, how recording technologies transform the listening experience, the evolution of the industry and much more.

Edugyan, Esi. *Half-Blood Blues*

A 2011 Man Booker Prize finalist, this author's second novel straddles Berlin and Paris between 1939-40 where a German American jazz band struggle with the seemingly abrupt changes in everyday life due to the rise of Nazi domination. It is rich in the love of music, history and the politics of the time – a wonderful opportunity to experience another perspective of the era.

Egan, Jennifer. *A Visit From the Goon Squad*

Bennie Salazar is an aging former punk rocker and record executive. Sasha is the passionate, troubled young woman who works for him. Through their lives, and the lives of those connected with them, Jennifer Egan tells a story of friendship, love, addiction, and the power of music to heal. A chapter by chapter playlist by Kate Bittman is available at *The New Yorker*: <http://www.newyorker.com/books/book-club/a-goon-squad-play-list>

Hancock, Herbie & Lisa Dickey. *Possibilities*

Follow the remarkable life of Herbie Hancock, from humble beginnings studying classical piano at the age of seven, to becoming the jazz pianist in Miles Davis' Quintet, to forming the Herbie Hancock Sextet, and ultimately becoming the winner of numerous Grammy Awards and one of the few jazz artists to win Album of the Year.

Related music CDs include:

- *Miles Davis Quintet: Live at the 1963 Monterey Jazz Festival*
- *Herbie Hancock: Maiden Voyage*
- *Herbie Hancock: River: The Joni Letters*
- *Herbie Hancock: The Imagine Project*
- *Then and Now: The Definitive Herbie Hancock*

Gioia, Ted. *The History of Jazz*

Gioia tells the story of jazz as it has never been told before, in a book that brilliantly portrays legendary jazz players, the breakthrough styles, and the world in which it evolved.

Levitin, Daniel J. *This Is Your Brain on Music: The Science of a Human Obsession*

Ever wonder about how those annoying little jingles get stuck in your head? Why the music you listened to as a teenager may stir your emotions like no other? Explore the connection between musical enjoyment, its creation and impact on our lives as you read this book by Daniel Levitin.

Morrison, Toni. *Jazz*

Set in the 1920s, this innovative novel is the story of life, death, hope, obsession and of course jazz during the Harlem Renaissance. Toni Morrison won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993.

Companion compact disc: *Rhapsodies in Black: Music and Words from the Harlem Renaissance*

Parker, Charlie. *Jazz Play Along (book with CD)*

This is one of several music books with recorded accompaniments that the Central Library owns. Read and listen to arrangements of Parker's famous saxophone solos, and then play along with the CD for improvisation study and performance.

Smith, Patti. *Just Kids*

In this memoir, singer-songwriter Patti Smith shares tales of New York City: the denizens of Max's Kansas City, the Chelsea Hotel, Scribner's Brentano's and Strand bookstores and her new life in Brooklyn with a young man named Robert Mapplethorpe—the man who changed her life with his love, friendship, and genius.

Companion music: *Horses by Patti Smith*

Ward, Geoffrey C. and Ken Burns. *Jazz: A History of America's Music*

A comprehensive history of the American art form of jazz from its beginnings in New Orleans at the turn of the 20th century to the present. The photographs, interviews and research attempt to answer the deceptively simple question "what is jazz?" See also the PBS series *Jazz*, directed by Ken Burns, on DVD.

