

Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band Read-A-Likes: Books About Jazz!

Titles highlighted in blue are linked to the MeL Catalog. If your library doesn't own a specific title, you can request it through MeL to be delivered to your local library.

JAZZMATAZZ! by Stephanie Calmenson.

When a mouse scurries into a house and starts to play jazz music, other animals join in, one by one, each using his or her own particular talent. Good book to introduce improvisation.

DUKE ELLINGTON'S NUTCRACKER SUITE by Ann Harwell Celenza.

Describes the making of Duke Ellington's jazz composition of the Nutcracker Suite.

THIS JAZZ MAN by Karen Ehrhardt.

Set to the rhythm of *This Old Man*, this picture book introduces children to jazz music and musicians.

A-TISKET A-TASKET by Ella Fitzgerald.

Not really a book about jazz, but it is written by jazz musician, Ella Fitzgerald, who also performed this song. A historical video of Ella singing this song is available online.

THE JAZZ FLY by Matthew Gollub

Seeking directions to town, a fly picks up on the rhythm of the answers he gets from a frog, a hog, a donkey, and a dog, and uses them to jazz up his band's music.

HOT JAZZ SPECIAL by Johnny Hannah.

Introduces young readers to leading jazz musicians of the twentieth century including Louis Armstrong and Billie Holiday.

GOD BLESS THE CHILD by Billie Holiday

A picture book interpretation of the Billie Holiday song by the same title. Story follows a family moving from the rural South to the urban North during the Great Migration of the early twentieth century.

MAMA DON'T ALLOW by Thacher Hurd

When Miles gets a saxophone for his birthday, neither his parents nor his neighborhood can stand the racket! However, when Miles and his Swamp Band receive an invitation to play at the Alligator Ball, no one guesses what's in store for them. Check out the Reading Rainbow episode which includes this title at: <http://vimeo.com/6240048>.

I SEE THE RHYTHM by Toyomi Igus

Recounts the historical influences of jazz music. Coretta Scott King Award winner, 1999.

BEN'S TRUMPET by Rachel Isadora.

Ben loves music and plays his imaginary trumpet until a musician in his neighborhood gives him the opportunity to play a real trumpet.

APT. 3 by Ezra Jack Keats.

Hearing music, two brothers try to discover where it is coming from.

HIP CAT by Jonathan London.

The Story of a jazz cat who took all his feelings and poured them out in his music. Check out the Reading Rainbow episode which includes this title online at: <http://vimeo.com/6366610>.

GOOD NIGHT LIL DARLIN by Kay James McCrimon.

A grandmother shares her love of jazz music with her granddaughter who is spending the day with her.

[JAZZ](#) by Walter Dean Myers.

Picture book celebrating the history of jazz music.

[MISTER AND LADY DAY: BILLIE HOLIDAY AND THE DOG WHO LOVED HER](#) by Amy Novesky

Introduces Billie Holiday's biography through her interactions with her beloved dog, Mister.

[SKIT SCAT RAGGEDY CAT: ELLA FITZGERALD](#) by Roxanne Orgill.

Picture book biography of Ella Fitzgerald.

[BEBOP EXPRESS](#) by HL Panahi.

Story of a train ride from New York to New Orleans. At each stop a new musician boards the train playing a different instrument. The onomatopoeic words makes this book very fun. Chug-a chug-a-chug-a-chug-a Choo! Choo!

[DUKE ELLINGTON](#) by Andrea Davis Pinkney.

Picture book biography of Duke Ellington.

[ELLA FITZGERALD: THE TALE OF A VOCAL VIRTUOSA](#) by Andrea Davis Pinkney.

Biography of Ella Fitzgerald told through a little cat, Scat Cat Monroe, who is a fan of her music.

[MAX FOUND TWO STICKS](#) by Brian Pinkney.

One day when Max doesn't feel like talking he finds two sticks that make perfect drumsticks. He spends the day tapping out a rhythm of answers to any question he receives until he gets a big surprise, a marching band in his neighborhood!

[CHARLIE PARKER PLAYED BE BOP](#) by Chris Raschka

Introduces the style of jazz known as bebop and the musician who created it. Video reading with bebop background music is available on YouTube.

[MYSTERIOUS THELONIOUS](#) by Chris Raschka.

Introduces jazz musician, Thelonious Monk, using the 12 colors of the color wheel as the 12 tones of the chromatic scale. Included CD offers background music to accompany the story.

[ELLINGTON WAS NOT A STREET](#) by Ntozake Shange.

A young girl recounts the many influential African American artists and leaders who visited her home, including jazz musician Duke Ellington.

[BECOMING BILLIE HOLIDAY](#) by Carole Boston Weatherford.

A fictional memoir of Billie Holiday.

[THE SOUND THAT JAZZ MAKES](#) by Carole Boston Weatherford

Describes how African American history influenced jazz music.

[JAZZ BABY](#) by Lisa Wheeler

A family sings their baby to sleep. Listen to this story being sung to the tune of *Rock Around the Clock* on YouTube.

Further information at www.michigan.gov/michiganreads.