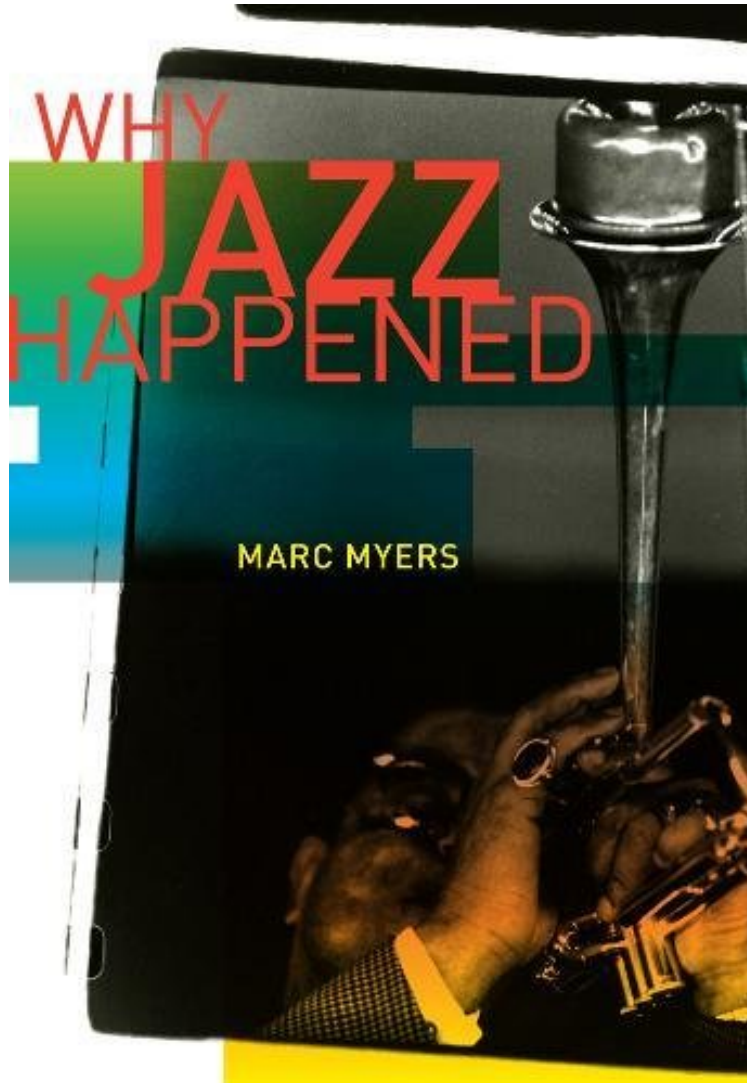


(Download) Why Jazz Happened

## Why Jazz Happened

*Marc Myers*

*ePub / \*DOC / audiobook / ebooks / Download PDF*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#653925 in Books University of California Press 2012-12-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .82 x 6.001, 1.12 #File Name: 0520268784266 pages | File size: 62.Mb

**Marc Myers : Why Jazz Happened** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Why Jazz Happened:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Why The Music Industry Happened! By BookHimDan Marc Myers is the kind of Jazz writer who never rests for a minute. He writes a daily blog called jazzwax (dot com) which is full of engaging interviews, opinions and recommendations about the music he so clearly knows and loves. I believe the true audience for this book is much wider than just those interested in the history of Jazz. The book actually covers social and economic topics such as the advent of the LP and 45rpm records and the business rivalries that led to the emergence of pop, rock and even classical music as an at-home-entertainment industry. This book is probably just as

important as an MBA case study as it is to the history of Jazz. Myers' coverage of the GI Bill and how it led to a generation of "schooled" musicians is another interesting social and political phenomenon that is of general interest, and helps explain why there is such a proliferation of music majors even today. I don't mean in any way to diminish the importance of this book as a history of Jazz. My point is that it is much wider in scope. Myers set out to explain why Jazz happened, and he ended up explaining why the music industry as a whole happened, and the central role America has played in its evolution. A must-read for all music lovers.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Riveting account of how American history shaped Jazz and vice versa

By Tony Hymes

Marc Myers' background in history is immediately apparent as "Why Jazz Happened" chronicles the last century in intimate detail. From the cultural, political, social, and personal influences that impressed themselves on the ever-changing genres of swing, big band, bebop and "jass," this book will heighten readers' appreciation for one of the most American types of music. Highly recommended to anyone with even the slightest interest in Jazz, after the introduction and first chapter you will be hooked, and you just might become a Jazz fan for life. Good tip: cue up different tracks to listen to (from YouTube, Whyd, etc) that Myers mentions while you read along. You can actually see the progression of the artists and the music itself.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not a history of jazz but jazz and history

By Michael Scullin

There are many histories of jazz but Mr Myers puts jazz into history into social context and does it well. His writing is a blend of the observations of those from within jazz and his own which happen to be, as are mine, quite centrist, eclectic, and ever cognizant of the fact that jazz evolved as entertainment. This hardly diminishes jazz but as jazz wandered off and many participants bemoan the diminishing enthusiasm and market they might do well to read this book.

Why Jazz Happened is the first comprehensive social history of jazz. It provides an intimate and compelling look at the many forces that shaped this most American of art forms and the many influences that gave rise to jazz's post-war styles. Rich with the voices of musicians, producers, promoters, and others on the scene during the decades following World War II, this book views jazz's evolution through the prism of technological advances, social transformations, changes in the law, economic trends, and much more. In an absorbing narrative enlivened by the commentary of key personalities, Marc Myers describes the myriad of events and trends that affected the music's evolution, among them, the American Federation of Musicians strike in the early 1940s, changes in radio and concert-promotion, the introduction of the long-playing record, the suburbanization of Los Angeles, the Civil Rights movement, the British invasion and the rise of electronic instruments. This groundbreaking book deepens our appreciation of this music by identifying many of the developments outside of jazz itself that contributed most to its texture, complexity, and growth.

From Booklist

This accessible history of jazz by frequent Wall Street Journal writer and blogger Myers focuses on the years 1942-72, when that music emerged from its beginnings into a period of ferment, from bebop to fusion. It is not necessarily for the musically sophisticated but rather for the layperson interested in the mid-century development of jazz, and Myers' critical contribution is in the why of his title (which might have profited from a subtitle). Though utilizing interviews, Myers relies primarily on secondary sources; as a result, he offers little new in the way of detail or musicology, but he supplements the voluminous jazz literature by cogently analyzing the business and cultural context—technological (radio and jukebox, LP and 45 rpm records, electronics) and social (the GI Bill, suburbanization, the civil rights movement)—that enabled the growth of jazz in mid-twentieth-century America. --Mark Levine

A highly engaging, thoroughly researched book.