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 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](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](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 onomatopoetic words makes this book very fun. Chug-a chug-a-chug-a-chug-a Choo!

DUKE ELLINGTON by Andrea Davis Pinkney.

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.