

Mitchell and Ruff: An American Profile in Jazz (Paperback)



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Reviews

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(Jeanette Kreiger)*

MITCHELL AND RUFF: AN AMERICAN PROFILE IN JAZZ (PAPERBACK)



Paul Dry Books, Inc, United States, 2008. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 213 x 137 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Highly recommended Library Journal In this account of the world adventures of two splendid jazz artists, Bill Zinsser has given us one of the most exciting books about America s original art form that I ve ever read. It s a revelation. Studs Terkel Since 1955, Dwiki Mitchell and Willie Ruff have been playing, teaching, and sharing jazz around the U.S. and around the world. William Zinsser, one of our finest chroniclers of American life, tells their story as he travels with the duo to China, to Davenport, Iowa, to New York City, and with Willie Ruff to St. Mark s Basilica in Venice, where Ruff journeys back to the roots of Western music in order to understand jazz s musical legacy. Zinsser also accompanies Mitchell and Ruff as they visit their hometowns in Florida and Alabama. We listen as the two men tell of growing up in small towns in the American South of the 1930s and 40s; as they tell about the teachers, community leaders, and family members who believed in two young black men with talent but no formal musical training; as they tell of their struggles, their perseverance, and their ultimate success. Jazz is indeed a uniquely American musical tradition, and there are no better guides to this inspiring art than Dwiki Mitchell and Willie Ruff. [This is a] thoughtful, adept, and satisfyingly unusual book of reportage. Though its contents are entirely factual, it concerns lives that give the sense of being but fatefully, imaginatively, arranged, and it constantly suggests improvisation that is, something created during the process of delivery, as Mr. Ruff explains the term to the Chinese. He also tells them improvisation is the lifeblood of jazz. William Zinsser s book...



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