



David Baker: A Legacy in Music

By Monika Herzig

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A Living Jazz Legend, musician and composer David Baker has made a distinctive mark on the world of music in his nearly 60-year career?as player (chiefly on trombone and cello), composer, and educator. In this richly illustrated volume, Monika Herzig explores Baker's artistic legacy, from his days as a jazz musician in Indianapolis to his long-term gig as Distinguished Professor and Chairman of the Jazz Studies department at Indiana University. Baker's credits are striking: in the 1960s he was a member of George Russell's "out there" sextet and orchestra; by the 1980s he was in the jazz educator's hall of fame. His compositions have been recorded by performers as diverse as Dexter Gordon and Janos Starker, the Beaux Arts Trio, the Composer's String Quartet and the Czech Philharmonic. Featuring enlightening interviews with Baker and a CD of unreleased recordings and Baker compositions, this book brings a jazz legend into clear view.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Unlike many other examples of the [Festschrift] genre, this one has real substance. It is a fine tribute to this extraordinary man and a valuable contribution to the history of jazz for the last half-century. I recommend it highly." ?JJA News

"[A] fascinating and well-documented book... The book is rich in detail and stories, personal and musical." ?

"All great musicians share one common thread and that is they were influenced and mentored along their journey by a very special individual. As I look back on my career in music, I will be forever grateful for meeting and working with the great David Baker. He is an inspiration to everyone he teaches and his love for music and the growth of musicianship amongst his students is contagious." ?Chris Botti, jazz trumpeter

"Herzig provides a thoroughly researched account of Baker's compelling life and his influential pedagogical approach, filled with contributions and heartfelt remembrances from the people who know him best." ?David Borgo, author of Sync or Swarm: Improvising Music in a Complex Age

"Overall, this is a fine tribute to the Indianapolis native and Living Jazz Legend, illuminating his 60-year career as performer, composer, and educator." ?Black Grooves

"Each chapter and contributor to the book is effusive in praise of Baker's personal touch. The reader is reminded that Baker is humble, funny, self-effacing, passionate and of great conviction. It may seem a hagiography at times but Herzig's book serves to inspire." ?JazzTimes

"David Baker is a musical institution and one of the most giving, brilliant, sensitive, funny and energetic forces among us. In the world of American jazz education and pedagogy, there is no higher tower." ?Bill Banfield, musician, composer, writer, and educator

"What has David Baker not done? As a young trombonist he lit up the Midwest and then New York with brilliant technique and endless ideas. David was already a much admired composer when he was forced to surrender his trombone, but when he started writing full-time he produced some of the most exciting works in late 20th-century American music. Equally influential as an educator, David has trained some outstanding musicians at Indiana University and was immensely influential at the late International Association for Jazz Education. Most importantly, David has long been an ambassador of jazz, advocating for its important place alongside classical musical traditions." ?A. B. Spellman, former Deputy Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts

"The musical legend is nearing his 80th birthday, and this book serves as a testament to his long career. It's a pleasure to have Baker's stories gathered in one place." ?Bloomington Herald-Times

"With the help of several key contributors, Herzig carefully traces Baker's career as a player, composer, educator and artist. It reads like the lives of several wrapped into one amazing person.... [T]his book is for anyone who wants to read about a class act, as well as a nice guy who wins in the face of great odds." ?Down Beat

"In a society that most commonly rewards glamorous careers with a focus on highly visible personalities, the choice to dedicate one's life to helping others achieve their aspirations denotes a truly selfless and kind person." ?from the Foreword by Quincy Jones

"Books about musical artists often do a good job of telling us about the artist's life or about the artist's music; only rarely do they do both well. Monika Herzig's new book David Baker is one such book." ?Bloom

"One of my musical superheroes, he has contributed significantly to jazz, African American culture, and the world." ?Larry Ridley, jazz bassist and educator

"Congratulations to Monika Herzig and the team of experts she assembled to contribute to a thorough look at the musical values and achievements of David Baker... [It's] a worthy 80th birthday tribute to a unique musician-educator." ?Indianapolis Star

About the Author

Monika Herzig is a recording artist for Owl Studios and a touring jazz pianist. Her music has received awards from DownBeat Magazine, ASCAP, and Billboard. Herzig teaches classes on the music industry and community arts organizations at Indiana University as a member of the Arts Administration faculty.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Janice Smith:

As people who live in often the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or details even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know what type you should start with. This David Baker: A Legacy in Music is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Crystal Lavigne:

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