



Weather Bird: Jazz at the Dawn of Its Second Century

Gary Giddins

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Gary Giddins's *Weather Bird* is a brilliant companion volume to his landmark in music criticism, *Visions of Jazz*, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award in Criticism. More than 140 pieces, written over a 14-year period, are brought together for the first time in this superb collection of essays, reviews, and articles. *Weather Bird* is a celebration of jazz, with illuminating commentary on contemporary jazz events, today's top musicians, the best records of the year, and on leading figures from jazz's past. Readers will find extended pieces on Louis Armstrong, Erroll Garner, Benny Carter, Sonny Rollins, Dave Brubeck, Ornette Coleman, Billie Holiday, Cassandra Wilson, Tony Bennett, and many others. Giddins includes a series of articles on the annual JVC Jazz Festival, which offers a splendid overview of jazz in the 1990s. Other highlights include an astute look at avant-garde music ("Parajazz") and his challenging essay, "How Come Jazz Isn't Dead?" which advances a theory about the way art is born, exploited, celebrated, and sidelined to the museum.

A radiant compendium by America's leading music critic, *Weather Bird* offers an unforgettable look at the modern jazz scene.

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