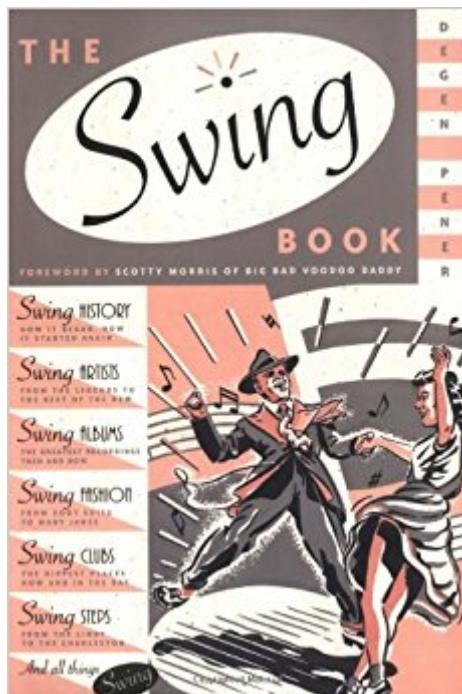


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The Swing Book



Synopsis

"Swing is king again. Louis Prima is the last word in cool; new bands like the Brian Setzer Orchestra and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy are jumping the charts; and across the country crowds are once more packing it in on the dance floor. The Swing Book is a complete guide to swing, from back in the day to today's new scene-everything you need to know about what to listen to, where to dance, how to dress, and how to move."

Book Information

Paperback: 246 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,714,162 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #98 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Popular #2276 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Jazz #5601 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > History & Criticism

Customer Reviews

"Degen Pener worked as a staff writer for Entertainment Weekly and as a columnist for the New York Times "Style of the Times." He now contributes to The New Yorker, New York, Wallpaper, and In Style. He lives in Manhattan."

I purchased this book along with two other items. 101 Swing Essentials and Big Band Swing filled out my excursion into the Big Bands and Swing Era. The Swing Book is very well written and guides you through the times. Bands, music and personalities are introduced and you get to know them. This is the book you need if you want to know about Swing. I have always been curious of the time and music. This book THE SWING BOOK coupled with the book BIG BAND SWING for the sheet music and the CD or download of 101 SWING ESSENTIALS will put it all together. The Swing Book is descriptive and covers the bands, people and music. 101 Swing Essentials lets you listen to a song as you read of it and Big Band Swing offers the core of the songs in sheet music. A wonderful

trio. If you must purchase only one of the three then I would suggest this book THE SWING BOOK. But, I really recommend going for the three as they really put it all together. Good stuff.

Degen Pener has really done his homework on this one. A fine book which treats its subject with respect. With the exception of a few books, Swing is usually given a brief glance in books on music and Jazz and those books often put the music and the dancers down. Pener really seems to like his subject and gives great recommendations on music to buy if you're just starting a collection. Top it all off with a reasonable price and you've got a book that Jazz lovers, Swing music lovers, and Swing dancers should clear space for on their book shelf.

What a fabulous book! It appealed to the dancer in me at once. I bought it on a whim, even though I was afraid of getting just another superficial treatment of swing. Pener proved me wrong; this book is killer-diller! I was pleasantly surprised at the amount of research Pener did for the book; any history major (which I am) would be proud of this one. Well-written, well-researched, with tons of addresses, web sites, and CD recommendations, this book is a gem. I thought knew quite a bit about the history and development of swing--I was wrong. A great resource for dancers who want to learn more swing history, culture and fashions. Every dancer, music historian, and swing lover should own this book!

More than just a valentine to swing, THE SWING BOOK is highly informative and entertaining. It really all is in here, in a fast and fun way with so many original interviews. Some real research and reporting went into this book, and it shows. Pener does a great job tracing the history of swing back in the day, and the social history of its recent comeback, with great quotes from the people who made it happen. All the experts weigh in, on dancing, on fashion, on tracking down the perfect find (whether it's a full suit or outfit, a small accessory, or the right album with the right performance of the right song), and on the history and artists both then and now. Makes you want to get out there and dance, or at least run to your record store.

but nothing more. I would recommend it if you are interested in the history of swing (particularly the music) and want a guide to swing musicians. Do not expect to learn to swing dance from this book. The lindy hop chapter is like like a glossary of swing dance terms.Overall, it is well written and provides a good introduction but it is too general and its focus can be too brief at times. It doesn't contain anything you couldn't learn from going to a swing dance or using a search engine.

Degen Pener has written a wonderful guide/history of the culture of swing music. Starting with the greats like Duke Ellington and Louis Prima, Pener tells the story of swing in the richest of detail. The guides to dress and dance are also extremely thorough and quite interesting to learn about. Very readable, entertaining, and informative. A five star book!

The book which () is the stuff! I love swing music and this book only enhanced my views and liking of the topic and music. It is a must buy book. Also, I met Scotty Morris at a show and thanked him for such a great forward. Hoppin job by Degen!

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