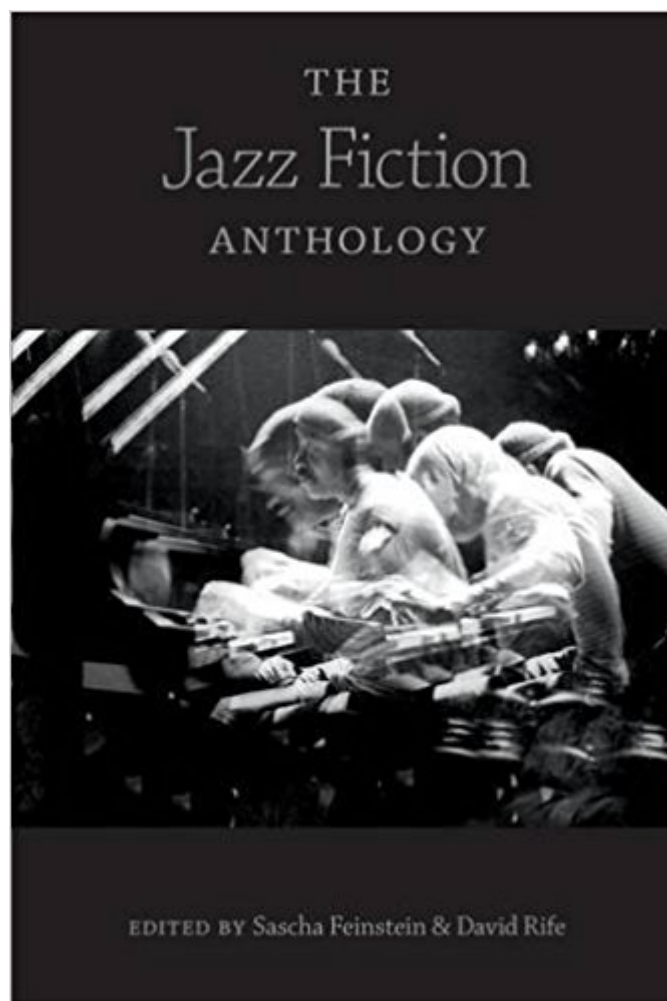


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# The Jazz Fiction Anthology



## Synopsis

A gathering of the best jazz fiction from the 1920s to the present, this anthology includes 20th-century fiction by Eudora Welty, James Baldwin, Richard Yates, and others, plus important recent work from writers such as Yusef Komunyakaa, Xu Xi, and Amiri Baraka. Together these artists demonstrate the strong influence of jazz on fiction. That influence can be felt in prose styles shaped by jazz—freewheeling, dramatic, conversational, improvisatory; in stories of players and listeners searching for what lies beyond the music's aesthetic power; and in the ambience of the jazz performance as captured by the written word. What sounds throughout these stories is the universal voice of humanity that is the essence of the music.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Though one can find other anthologies of jazz fiction, all acknowledged by the editors, this collection is richer than any of its predecessors.... The appealing material collected here captures the ambience of the jazz universe in surprising ways. The best stories are poetic, metaphorical, imagistic, rhythm-based, allusive, and illusive—reflecting respect/adoration for jazz and artistry.... Highly recommended." [Choice](#), May 2010 "Carefully chosen and superbly edited by Sascha Feinstein and David Rife, the collection of 32 pieces of short fiction brings together some of the best jazz fiction from the 1920s to the present.... these stories virtually swing off the page." [Jersey Jazz](#), December 2009 "The Jazz Fiction Anthology fills a vast hole in the canon of American literature. Jazz, central to the American vernacular, stimulated writers during the entire

course of the 20th century, but no previous anthology of jazz-inspired fiction has assembled under one roof such a culturally varied and historically important group of stories. Here at last is a beautiful, carefully chosen collection, as surprising as the music, as swinging as the rhythms of this age." —A.B. Spellman, author of *Four Lives in the Bebop Business* "A superb selection that illuminates the fascinating variety of literary responses to jazz." —Dan Morgenstern, author of *Living with Jazz*

Sascha Feinstein is editor of *Brilliant Corners: A Journal of Jazz & Literature*; *The Jazz Poetry Anthology* (IUP, 1991) and *The Second Set* (IUP, 1996) (both with Yusef Komunyakaa); and *Ask Me Now: Conversations on Jazz and Literature* (IUP, 2007). In 2008, Feinstein was named Pennsylvania's Governor's Awards Artist of the Year. David Rife is author of *Jazz Fiction: A History and Comprehensive Reader's Guide*.

First of all, I ordered after the semester started, but it arrived in time for the second reading assignment. Second, the stories in it are wonderful, so I will be keeping it for my bookshelf after the class is over. I recommend it for literature students and for everyone from high school through age 140 who could benefit from some meditative reading about music.

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