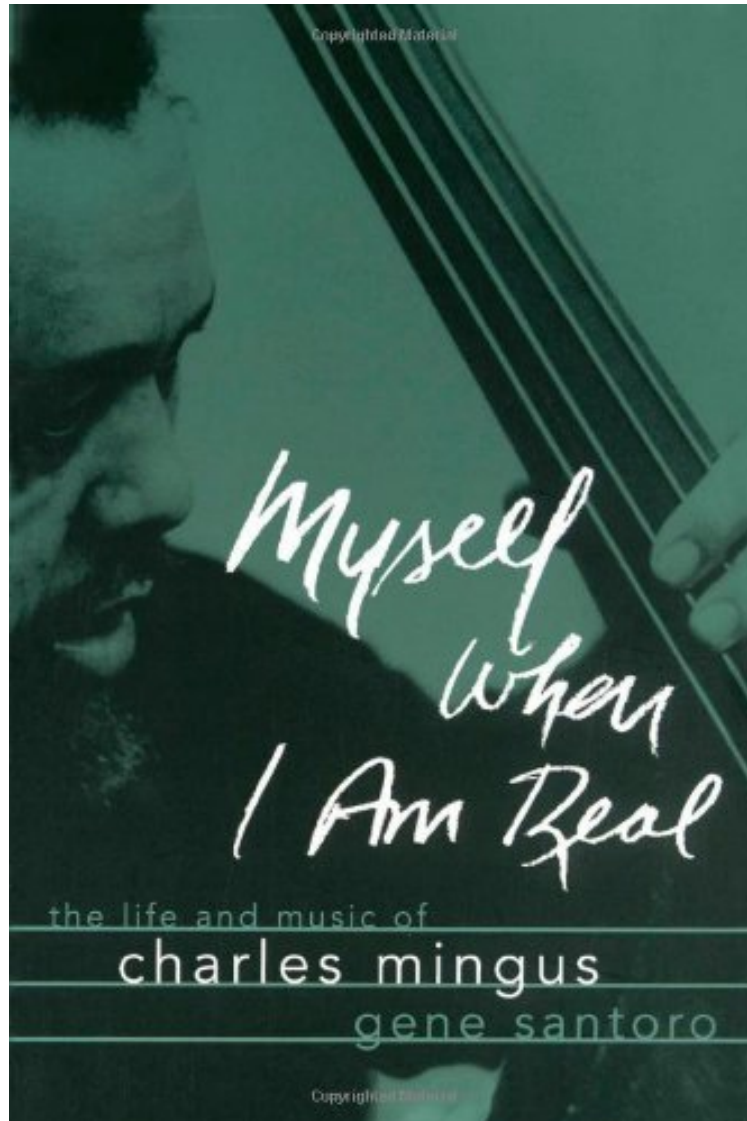


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Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus

Von Gene Santoro

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Von Gene Santoro : Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. His self, though he's none too realVon Ein KundeMingus was mighty. And though Santoro introduces him with great praise and passion, he almost portrays him as a buffoon through his many contradictory phases. And for a music critic, his

descriptions of the music and compositions is pretty awful (awkwardly described, incorrect or minus any true appreciation). A few more details about Mingus' personal life than Priestley's musical biography, but otherwise, Priestley's book is infinitely better!

0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
informative,entertaining,and insightful
Von Ein Kunde
This is a great biography. Filled with new information and many interviews with musicians, friends and ex wives this book shows a real look at the music, mind , and beliefs of Charles Mingus. It offers a lot of new details regarding concert performances and even goes as far as to relate actual amounts of money earned for concerts, recording sessions and records. The reader gets a chance to really go inside the mind and music of Mingus and get a feel for how he composed and lived his life. Highly Recommended.

Kurzbeschreibung Charles Mingus was one of the most innovative jazz musicians of the 20th century, and ranks with Charles Ives and Duke Ellington as one of America's greatest composers. By temperament, he was a high-strung and sensitive romantic, a towering figure whose tempestuous personal life found powerfully coherent expression in the ever-shifting textures of his music. Now, acclaimed music critic Gene Santoro strips away the myths shrouding "Jazz's Angry Man," revealing Mingus as more complex than even his close friends knew. Written in a lively, novelistic style, *Myself When I Am Real* draws on dozens of new interviews and previously untapped letters and archival materials to explore the intricate connections between this extraordinary man and the extraordinary music he made.
In an art form known for its outrageous characters, Charles Mingus stood out. To paraphrase Walt Whitman, he was a man of "multitudes." He was a forceful, virtuosic bassist. He was an imaginative and original composer and arranger second only to Duke Ellington. He was also a social critic, bully, lady's man, father, and hypersensitive man-child who simply wanted to be appreciated for his work. Making sense of this larger-than-life personality presents an imposing challenge to any biographer. Enter Gene Santoro. The author of *Dancing in Your Head* and *Stir It Up: Musical Mixes from Roots to Jazz*, Santoro updates Brian Priestley's *Mingus: A Critical Biography*; separates the fact from the fiction of Mingus's rowdy autobiography, *Beneath the Underdog*; and produces the literary equivalent of a masterful Mingus composition, complete with labyrinthine surprises and complexities. A light-skinned African American with Native American and Asian bloodlines who was born in 1922, Mingus endured a difficult childhood in Los Angeles, forever stung by the rampant racism that halted his dreams of a career in the classical music field. Undaunted, Mingus went on to work with several jazz giants, including Lionel Hampton, Dizzy Gillespie, and Duke Ellington, before creating his own record company (Debut) and composing over 300 iconoclastic compositions, including "Eclipse," "Haitian Fight Song," "Goodbye Porkpie Hat," "Cumbia and Jazz Fusion," and many other jazz standards. Santoro writes that the music "is overwhelming in its torrent of musical styles and psychological switchbacks and emotional punch, its tumble of raucous gospel swing, luminous melodies, European classical threads, bebop tributes, Mexican and Colombian and Indian music and sounds from anywhere and everywhere." In addition to his keen insights into the music (including a thorough discography), Santoro deftly analyzes Mingus's mercurial personality. From the highs (his celebrated recordings *Blues Roots* and *Mingus Ah Um*) to the lows (his horrible Epitaph concert, his eviction from his New York apartment, his numerous assaults on sidemen, and his slow death from Lou Gehrig's disease in 1979), Santoro fairly and faithfully lays bare the mind, body, soul, and art of an American original who influenced everyone from Wynton Marsalis to Joni Mitchell. "Mingus' music was autobiography in sound," Santoro writes. "Everyone in his life had a role. His portraits, his musical tributes, his insistence on forcing his sidemen to find themselves in what he imagined, his clamor for recognition, his emphasis on his originality ... these were more than stylistic trademarks. They were the essence of who he was." *Myself When I Am Real* captures this essence brilliantly. --Eugene Holley Jr.
Pressestimmen "The definitive Mingus biography."--The Boston Book "The best examination yet of an American original."--Washington Post "The great bassist and composer's wild, turbulent life [is] wonderfully captured by Santoro....In sharp and lively prose, [he] digs deep into Mingus' past to sort out the strands of his life..."--Rolling Stone "As Mingus's story unfolds, Santoro keeps the backbeat with perspectives on the socio-political churning over those years, all of which affected Mingus's life and music....Santoro is on target, and his writing...soars."--The Boston Globe "This is a biography as gargantuan in scope and ambition as Mingus himself, and highly recommended."--The Seattle Times "Written with the elegant hand of an experienced journalist and the insight of a musician with first-rate ears, the book accomplishes the seemingly impossible task of casting a revealing light upon the inner life of its enigmatic subject."--Los Angeles Times "Santoro brings his readers into the mind of this conflicted genius."--The Philadelphia Inquirer "The definitive Mingus biography."--The Boston Book "The best examination yet of an American original."--Washington Post "The great bassist and composer's wild, turbulent life [is] wonderfully captured by Santoro....In sharp and lively prose, [he] digs deep into Mingus' past to sort out the strands of his life..."--Rolling Stone "As Mingus's story unfolds, Santoro keeps the backbeat with perspectives on the socio-political churning over those years, all of which affected Mingus's life and music....Santoro is on target, and his writing...soars."--The Boston Globe "This is a biography as gargantuan in scope and ambition as Mingus himself, and highly recommended."--The Seattle Times "Written with the elegant hand of an experienced journalist and the insight of a musician with first-rate

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