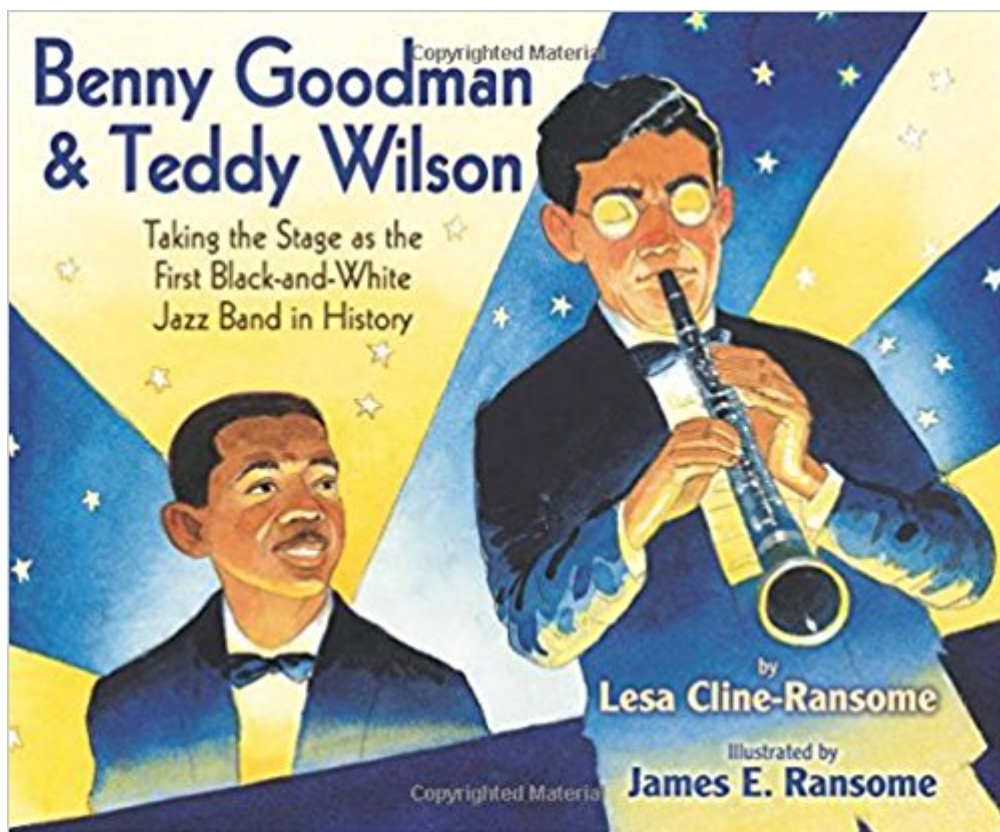




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Benny Goodman & Teddy Wilson: Taking The Stage As The First Black-and-White Jazz Band In History



Synopsis

A stunning picture book celebrates the first widely seen integrated jazz performance: the debut of the Benny Goodman quartet with Teddy Wilson in 1936 Chicago.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Holiday House (February 1, 2014)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,583,198 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Jazz #281 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Performing Arts #1019 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 2-6 "The true story of jazz musicians Benny Goodman and Teddy Wilson is told in deep blues and gold with splashes of red throughout. The lyrical prose infuses the book with the spirit of jazz ("Benny blowing /bleating /breathing /music /into Benny's clarinet.") The illustrations are realistic and reminiscent of Jerry Pinkney's *God Bless the Child* (HarperCollins, 2003), yet the watercolors seem to blur together at times and swing like the music that Teddy and Benny play. The biographical back matter will give readers more insight into all of the musicians mentioned and shed light on how a love of music helped the two break down color lines." Krishna Grady, Darien Library, CT

While a young Benny Goodman was growing up on the West Side of Chicago during the Roaring Twenties, Teddy Wilson was in Alabama, listening to Fats Waller. Music was a part of both boys' lives: Benny played the clarinet; Teddy was a piano player. This title tells their stories on alternating pages until they meet in New York City. Benny's clarinet is blowing "all sweet / all dance / all white." Teddy's playing is "all hot / all rhythm / all black." Initially, the duo jams and cuts

records, but the musicians don't play together onstage: "Audiences weren't ready for a black-and-white band." The endnotes tell a different story: it was Goodman, worried about his career, who didn't want to go onstage with Wilson until disappointed audiences walked out. Nevertheless, this introduces an important event in a snappy text that swings. Ransom's line-and-watercolor pictures also flow with movement and color. Kids drawn in by the story of the young artists will go on to ponder the history. Grades 2-4. --Ilene Cooper

But read it. And read it to all the kids you know....they may not believe that music was segregated, but this is a pleasant and not too depressing way to learn about a very shameful period of history. Thank you Benny Goodman!! Let's all read this and make sure that we learn about the way we should treat each other. NICELY!! Thank you to the author and to the illustrator for a much-needed volume. Fran Morris-Rosman Archivist to the Estate of Ella Fitzgerald

Wonderful book worthy of much praise-but for what age group? Prose/poetry moves along in swing time with references to Jazz and swing artists few elementary school aged kids would know. Older kids might think the style looks less sophisticated than it is. It is terrific for that brave music teacher who will read the book then put on some CDs and wail

A nice presentation of well-known and little-known facts

This is one gorgeous book, pairing a fun and educational storyline with wonderful art. The team of Lesa and James make one outstanding duo. THIS BOOK REALLY WORKS. We learn via short narrations and generous art, how these two great musicians came together. We start first with Chicago's West Side 1922, and then to Tuskegee College, 1926. The authors recount famous events in the lives of each musician, as they performed separately, then finally, together. I confess that I adore the subtleties of the paintings. See especially the painting of young Teddy with his tutor at the piano. There is informative biographical information and timeline at the back of the book, titled, "More about Benny Goodman and Teddy Wilson." Also, a "Who's Who in Jazz?" section featuring the big names in the history of Jazz. ~~~~~ EXCELLENT BOOK HIGHLY RECOMMEND! Inspiring, fun, great artwork! If you like this book (which you will), see these other works by the same author: Satchel Paige Words Set Me Free: The Story of Young Frederick Douglass (Paula Wiseman Books) Light in the Darkness: A Story about How Slaves Learned in Secret Major Taylor, Champion Cyclist Before There Was Mozart: The Story of Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de

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