

Trading Eights

THE FACES OF JAZZ



PROSPECTUS

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2016

Announcing A NEW EDITION from
MIXOLYDIAN EDITIONS & NAWAKUM PRESS

Trading Eights, The Faces of Jazz

Essay by **Ted Gioia** Engravings by **James G. Todd, Jr** Poem by **Dana Gioia**

Trading Eights is an informed and passionate journey into jazz. It speaks to the truth in the music, as seen through the eyes of a fine artist, a jazz historian, and a poet.

Paying homage to a uniquely American style of music, known for its spontaneity and improvisation, this edition blends evocative jazzmen portraiture with new and highly personal characterizations of the music. Jazz is embodied music. Here you will find portraits of eight iconic jazz figures, engraved by James G. Todd Jr., an innovator in the field of wood engraving. Accompanying these wonderful engravings are words from jazz pianist and writer Ted Gioia, author of *The History of Jazz*, and poetry from his brother Dana Gioia, poet and former Chairman for the National Endowment for the Arts. Richard Wagener has printed each portrait from the original block. Take yourself to the smoky nightclubs where jazz prevailed, hear from enthusiasts, and look into the faces of the creators of the music itself.

Charlie Parker, the highly influential jazz saxophonist who died in 1955 at the age of thirty-four, once said that music was your own experience, your thoughts and your wisdom. If you don't live it he said, it won't come out of your horn. Like many a jazz greats Parker played hard, and he lived hard. His seminal playing, defining a hipster subculture at the time, and later the Beat Generation, helped personify jazz musicians not as mere entertainers, but as uncompromising artists and intellectuals as well.

Charles Mingus, a master of collective improvisation, was an American virtuoso bass player, piano player, bandleader, and composer who was raised in the Watts area of Los Angeles, later settling in New York. Known as "The Angry Man of Jazz", he was uncompromising when it came to his own musical integrity, and in championing the strengths of the musicians in his own groups. He was at the forefront of the avant-garde, and once remarked that his music "was evidence of his soul's will to live."

James G. Todd Jr. brings you face to face with these and other iconic figures of jazz from the past. Todd is a painter, printmaker, and true Montana original with a long and distinguished career. While his peers looked to the local landscape for inspiration, Todd adopted a different tradition, one that was politically engaged and clearly urban by nature. Internationally recognized for his unique style of wood engraving, Todd brings a nuance and rawness to the medium that lends itself well to these jazz portraits. He created them over a twenty-year span from 1973–1994. In his teens, and later in college in the 1950s, he and his brother became jazz enthusiasts while visiting local night spots like The Ozark Club in Great Falls, Montana where they were raised.



ABOUT THE WRITER

TED GIOIA is a jazz pianist and writer. He is the author of nine books, including *The History of Jazz*, *The Jazz Standards*, and *West Coast Jazz*. He worked with Stanford University's Department of Music in the 1980s to help establish a formal jazz studies program, and served on the faculty alongside artist-in-residence Stan Getz for several years. His most recent book is *Love Songs: The Hidden History*, published by Oxford University Press, 2015.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

JAMES G. TODD, JR. is Professor Emeritus of Art and Humanities at the University of Montana where he taught for over thirty years. He attended the Art Institute and the University of Chicago studying wood engraving under Adrian Troy. In addition to a lifelong passion for jazz, he has immersed himself in social theory and the history of art. Todd is a member of the Association Jean Chieze in France, the Wood Engravers Network in the United States, the Society of Wood Engravers and the Royal Society of Painter-Printmakers in the United Kingdom.

ABOUT THE POET

DANA GIOIA is an American poet, writer, and jazz enthusiast, who also served as the Chairman for the National Endowment for the Arts from 2002–2009. While there he further championed the Jazz Masters program. He has published four books of poetry and three volumes of literary criticism as well as opera libretti, translations, and over two dozen literary anthologies. Gioia is the recipient of the 2014 Aiken Taylor Award for Modern American Poetry.

ABOUT THE EDITION

Trading Eights, The Faces of Jazz is sixty-four pages and measures 9¼ inches by 14¾ inches. The typefaces are Ehrhardt and Janson, cast in lead by Patrick Reagh. Titling is Modern #20 and Grotesque #9. Wood engravings are by James G. Todd Jr. and printed from the original blocks by Richard Wagener on his Vandercook Universal I. The text is printed by Richard Wagener and Patrick Reagh. The papers are both blue and white Zerkall and red Saint-Armand. Translucent interleaves are digitally printed with smoke images at Black Cat Studio on an Epson P-7000. The binding is French Chagreen quarter goatskin, with blue-black and grey paste papers over boards. Spine and front cover are foil stamped copper and black. Binding and paste papers designed by Lisa Van Pelt.

Trading Eights, The Faces of Jazz is co-published in one state, in an edition of fifty-five, by Richard Wagener of Mixolydian Press and David Pascoe of Nawakum Press. Forty copies are for sale and signed by the author, poet, and artist.

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