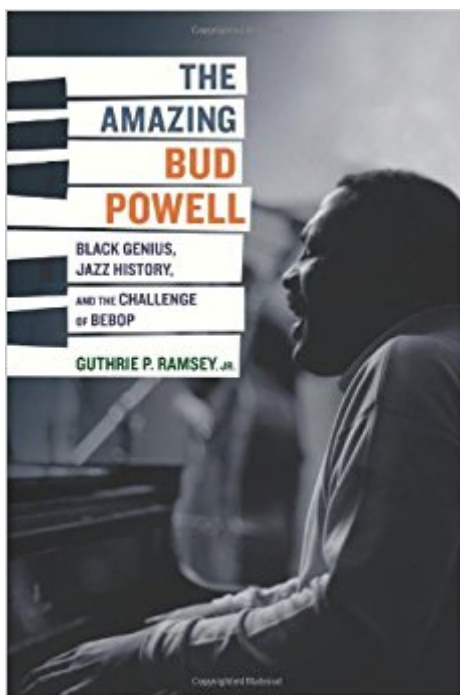


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# The Amazing Bud Powell: Black Genius, Jazz History, And The Challenge Of Bebop



## Synopsis

Bud Powell was not only one of the greatest bebop pianists of all time, he stands as one of the twentieth century's most dynamic and fiercely adventurous musical minds. His expansive musicianship, riveting performances, and inventive compositions expanded the bebop idiom and pushed jazz musicians of all stripes to higher standards of performance. Yet Powell remains one of American music's most misunderstood figures, and the story of his exceptional talent is often overshadowed by his history of alcohol abuse, mental instability, and brutalization at the hands of white authorities. In this first extended study of the social significance of Powell's place in the American musical landscape, Guthrie P. Ramsey, Jr. shows how the pianist expanded his own artistic horizons and moved his chosen idiom into new realms. Illuminating and multi-layered, *The Amazing Bud Powell* centralizes Powell's contributions as it details the collision of two vibrant political economies: the discourses of art and the practice of blackness.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Those interested in the great American art form of jazz will want to add this book to their libraries. For those with an interest in the pianist Bud Powell it is essential reading. Musicologist Guthrie Ramsey has penned a deeply knowledgeable and original piece of scholarship on this seminal jazz pianist. The book looks not only at Powell's musical innovations, but also examines his formative musical and personal background and the context in which his innovations were shaped. Using a deft and engaging writing style that will engage both lay readers, jazz aficionados and academics

alike, Ramsey has penned an indispensable and seminal book.

This is an amazing book. It not only tells the story of Bud Powell, but puts that story in context so that the reader is fully immersed in the world of the time. Bud Powell had many "deficiencies," but though those complicated his life, his genius as a musician is fully recognized here and the difficulties he had to contend with are made plain. Jazz students today should study what musicians lived through in the mid-20th century to understand the struggle that preceded them, and celebrate the lives of musicians like Bud Powell.

An in depth study of Bud, but one that takes a broader stance than existing ones, including social and political ones. Well worth reading and great to see something that helps increase Bud's exposure. He is ridiculously uner-heard.

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