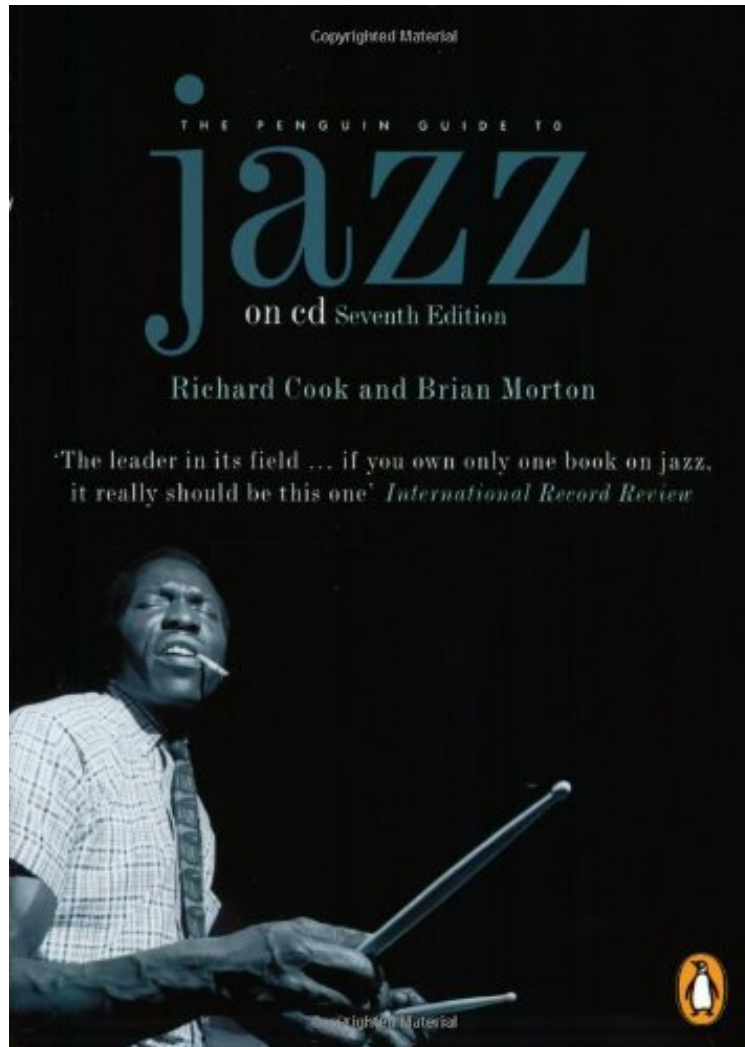


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Richard Cook, Brian Morton
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Richard Cook, Brian Morton : The Penguin Guide to Jazz on CD: Seventh Edition (Penguin Guide to Jazz Recordings) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Penguin Guide to Jazz on CD: Seventh Edition (Penguin Guide to Jazz Recordings):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Chock full of useful reviews, even though this is an older editionBy jsheedChock full of useful reviews, even though this is an older edition. Also great for keeping the door open. Arrived quickly. Book is as described.13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Not what it once was, but still the bestBy gtra1nFirst of all, if you do not own such a jazz guide and want one, this is the only one to consider. The

Rough Guide, AMG, etc. are merely mediocre compared to this massive and impressive tome. In fact, even if you're not interested in a guide per se, this book is invaluable if you are a jazz fan and would like some extensive and comprehensive collection of jazz musicians and their biographical and artistic development - that's what the Penguin truly is. Cook and Morton are learned and perceptive critics, better and more comprehensive in every respect than those in other guides. While others, including many of the public reviewers here, would dispute matters of taste, those are essentially non-critical and irrelevant issues. We all have our favorites, as do Cook and Morton, but the valuable service they provide is true criticism, especially in firmly placing each musician's discography within the context of his/her peers and also his/her own artistic style and goals. They also have a better perspective on European jazz than most Americans do, and while they may have some surprising enthusiasms for certain players, they are always sincere and never pretentious. And they write much better than the others in this field. The Guide is more than just a collection of reviews, it's a discussion of myriad jazz artists and their musical histories as conveyed through recordings. That being said, this new edition brings out some inevitable drop-offs from the previous one, and there's not much that can be done about it. It's a question of space. There are more CDs covered, more pages added, and the book itself is massive. What this has meant is a reorganization of the previous content - many sections have been pared down, paraphrasing more extensive reviews. To me, this is a sad loss, because one of the pleasures of this book is to pull it off the shelf, flip to a random section and really learn about a musician, not just a bunch of records. The extensive and wonderful sections on Coltrane, Parker, Davis and others are still here, and each musician now has a brief biographical paragraph preceding the actual reviews, but a lot of information has been cut for most of the non-godlike figures, and that is a sad loss, no matter how understandable it is. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Frustrating...By A Customer...but wonderful, too. This book is frustrating because of all it omits. You'd think that many--if not most--of the people buying this book are pretty serious jazz collectors. Oddly, the authors leave out numerous limited editions (including most Mosaic sets, which simply boggles the mind), rarities, out-of-print discs, "unofficial releases," and so forth. These are precisely the things serious collectors are often looking for. Why doesn't the book deal more with such discs? After all, sessions that are rare today are likely to be re-released tomorrow, so it would be nice to have a review on hand. That said, the writing in this book is erudite, elegant, witty, and pleasingly frank--the authors have no compunction about deflating overrated albums and sending sacred cows off to slaughter. Another of the great strengths of this guide is that it reviews each artist's recordings in chronological order, tracing the artist's development across the course of multiple reviews. Hardly a perfect guide, then, but a darn good one. And even if you don't agree with the review verdicts (though most of them seem spot on), you'll still most likely enjoy browsing through this volume. There's something interesting and entertaining on nearly every page.

The Penguin Guide to Jazz on CD is now firmly established as the world's leading guide to recorded jazz, a mine of fascinating information and a source of insightful - often wittily trenchant - criticism. For this completely revised seventh edition, Richard Cook and Brian Morton have reassessed each artist's entry and updated the text to incorporate thousands of additional CDs. The result is an endlessly browsable companion that will prove required reading for aficionados and jazz novices alike.

From Library Journal Wondering whether that old LP you have of Lester at Birdland is available on CD? When Branford and Wynton Marsalis have recorded together? The best collection of Billie Holiday tunes? If so, then this is the book for you. This fifth edition of Penguin's definitive guide to jazz recordings on compact disc expands on the stellar reputation of its predecessors, the first of which appeared in 1992. Organized alphabetically by artist, the book boasts more than 10,000 entries (approximately 2000 more than the fourth edition), an easier-to-read, two-column format, and bright white paper stock. Cook, an editor at *Jazz*, and Morton, a BBC announcer, have reappraised entries, deleting albums that have gone out of print and adding new releases. For example, under "John Zorn," readers will notice 20 more recordings. Each entry also offers complete label and numbering information, incisive critical commentary, personnel listings, and for the first time short biographical sketches of various artists. As in previous editions, each entry is given a shorthand rating of one to four stars. The writers' wit, attention to detail, and consistently incisive commentary make this essential for even the most discriminating jazz enthusiast. Libraries without the fourth edition (1998) should definitely purchase. David Valencia, King Cty. Lib. Syst., Federal Way, WA Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. An invaluable reference tool for the wide-eyed beginner as well as the grizzled cynic. -- Chicago Tribune Impressive and exhaustive. -- Billboard About the Author Richard Cook is the former editor of the *Wire* and is currently the editor of the leading UK jazz magazine, *Jazz*. He is the coauthor of *The Penguin Guide to Jazz Recordings*. Brian Morton is a freelance writer and longtime broadcaster for BBC Radio.