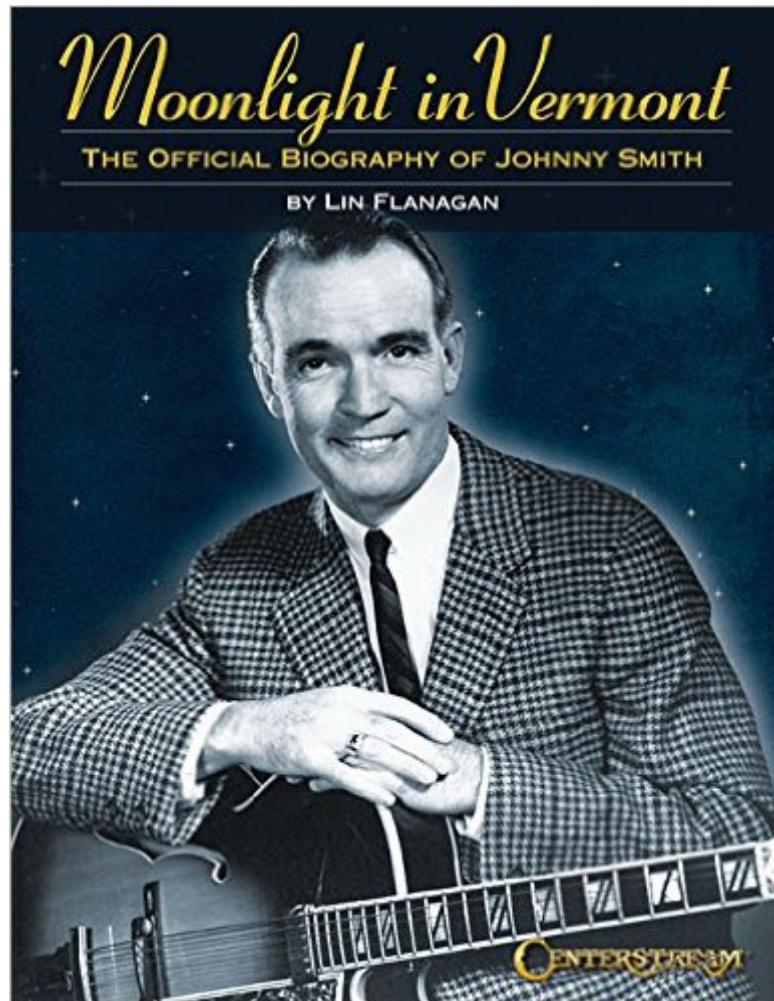


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Moonlight In Vermont: The Official Biography Of Johnny Smith



Synopsis

(Reference). Johnny Smith (1922-2013) was the jazz guitarist's jazz guitarist. During the 1950s, he worked for the network broadcasters in New York while also playing regularly at clubs such as Birdland opposite Count Basie, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, George Shearing and many other legends of jazz. He was the most revered guitarist on the New York jazz scene during a golden era. His technical virtuosity, quality of tone, musical sophistication and literacy were unrivaled in jazz guitar circles. Many celebrated jazz guitarists still consider him to be the benchmark of musicianship by which all others are measured. This is the biography of the man whom many jazz guitar legends call "The Master."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is very well done book and a worthy tribute to such a great artist. It is NOT something, which was just thrown together without a lot of thought. It's loaded with photos, personal stories about his personal life as well as his life, as jazz guitarist. And of the broader jazz world of his time. For example. Did you know that the performers at Byrdland, if they wanted to be introduced by their correct names, and not be subjected to insults, had to slip the corrupt emcee, 'Pee Wee', a few bucks? Lots of sweet tidbits like that, contained within. Then of course, there was Johnny saying that one of his favorite life memories, was the site of New York City in his rearview mirror, as he headed home to Colorado. Johnny was definitely one of the greatest. As a man and a consummate musician.

Very well written. As I knew Mr Smith personally and his son David I'm familiar with his life. Reading

the book gave me an enormous insight into his professional life. A must have for any true Johnny Smith fan.

I started playing folk and rock guitar many years ago as a teen ager. After a number of years of playing in this style I got interested in classical guitar and studied for a number of years. I really liked the discipline that came with playing classical guitar and amazing music that could be played. That said while I enjoyed playing classical I also missed playing plectrum style guitar but it seemed to me that it would not be possible to play the kind of music I liked with a pick. Then I was looking at guitarists and someone mentioned Johnny Smith and his work with plectrum guitar and solo classical transcriptions I was really amazed at what he was capable of accomplishing. This made me take a second look at playing plectrum guitar and I'm now happily discovering a new approach to playing solo guitar that is bringing me great joy. Also I have to say that Johnny Smith is a great teacher who really cares about his students and the guitar. He tries to make what he's doing very clear and to share what he has learned. He also seems like a very humble person who is very dedicated to his craft. I hope that Johnny Smith will be rediscovered by some of today's emerging guitarists I think they could learn a lot about the value of good pedagogy and what it means to be a solid human being and not get lost in the web of fame and fortune.

Johnny Smith has, for a long time, been one of my favourite guitarists. After reading this biography, I can't say that he is now my absolute favourite guitarist. There are many features of this book that I like very much. First, it has been extremely thoroughly and meticulously researched. Second, it is very well written; that, plus the judicious use of sub-headings, makes it easy to read. Third, the way the author has chosen to structure it. While, it understandably follows Johnny Smith's remarkable life from birth to death, it isn't a straight chronological description. Aspects of his life such as his music shop, his work as an educator, his contribution to people's understanding of guitar construction and amplification, his interests outside music and his gracious personality are given their own sections. That way, they are appropriately highlighted while maintaining the overall flow of the book. Fourth, it provides a lot of intriguing, between the lines information such as what life was really like in New York for musicians at that time, explanations of why Smith's music is so revered by guitarists and some elusive nuggets (that always seem obvious with hindsight) that I can use to improve my own playing. In short, I gained a lot more from this book than I had expected and I'm very happy to recommend it.

Lin Flanagan has created the definitive biography of an artist whom many call the ultimate American jazz guitarist. Mr. Flanagan spent the last several weeks of Smith's life with him chronicling his career. It was not planned, and Mr. Flanagan was obviously just inadvertently prescient, but it was nevertheless the perfect coda to Mr. Smith's extraordinary life. I am a music journalist who has also chronicled Johnny's life via interview(s) in my book and again with a lengthy piece for a leading music publication. But this book discloses more interesting and important information about this brilliant artist than any and/or all other Johnny Smith profiles combined. I can't imagine any informed guitar enthusiast citing this work with less than five-stars. Anything less is tantamount to Hank Aaron not being voted in unanimously to baseball's hall of fame. What does a guy have to do? If you love jazz guitar you'll appreciate this comprehensive, dedicated and truly brilliant work.

The Official Johnny Smith biography -- and then some !!More than a bio, this book, filled with photo's, interviews and anecdotes, is a well written and well researched homage to ' The ' Guitar Master. Written by a very good author who is also an accomplished guitarist, this book has a player's perspective, which makes it an even better read. (Check out the performances on YouTube - - ' Lin Flanagan /Johnny Smith '). Good authors rarely if ever play this well, and accomplished players rarely if ever write this well.This book will likely, and rightfully so - become the definitive work describing an extraordinary man's life --Johnny Smith.The book more than does justice to the man and his music !

Not a critical book, but a great book if you like jazz guitar and Johnny Smith's music.

I'm very happy that someone wrote a book about Johnny Smith. He set the bar so high!

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