



Too Marvelous for Words: The Life and Genius of Art Tatum (Paperback)

By James Lester

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 1995. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Art Tatum defined the limits of the possible in jazz piano. Gunther Schuller called Tatum's playing a marvel of perfection. His deep-in-the-keys full piano sonority, the tone and touch control in pyrotechnical passages, are miracles of performance. Whitney Balliett wrote no pianist has ever hit notes more beautifully. Each one—no matter how fast the tempo—was light and complete and resonant, like the letters on a finely printed page. His famous runs have been compared to the arc left against the night sky by a Fourth-of-July sparkler. And to have heard him play, one musician said, was as awe-inspiring as to have seen the Grand Canyon or Halley's Comet. Now, in *Too Marvelous For Words*, James Lester provides the first full-length biography of the greatest virtuoso performer in the history of jazz. Before this volume, little was known about Tatum, even among jazz aficionados. What were his origins, who taught him and who provided early pianistic influences, how did he break into the jazz field, what role did he play in the development of other jazz players, and what was...



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