



So wonderful to be reminded, in his own voice, of what an enthusiast Dr. Wong was, like no other, throughout his whole life -- experiencing Jazz just never got "old" for him, he was forever impassioned. He loved the music so much and is so brilliant at imparting his own sense of the wonder and joy with the reader.

He's always going to be Dr. Wong to me although as you can imagine he'd asked me to call him "Herb" years ago ... when I first met him I was around 10 and it still feels that way in reading his words, like I'm a kid listening to these vivid Jazz bedtime stories from him.

This is an incredible book ... hard to put it down!

Benny Green
Jazz Pianist

Jazz On My Mind is a delightful and substantial addition to jazz commentary, full of the vivid anecdotes and insightful, accessible analysis of the late Dr. Herb Wong, a lifelong enthusiast and acclaimed educator who came to work with and know the musical heroes he depicts here.

With exemplary assistance from Paul Fingerote, longtime marketing and public relations director of the Monterey Jazz Festival, Dr. Wong selected and shaped his memories and his earlier writings into a volume that stands tall among those concerning composers and performers of the second half of the 20th century whose sounds will ring forever.

Howard Mandel
President / Jazz Journalists Association

Storytelling takes many forms; words can fill any space.

While the days of vinyl records are not gone, the heyday of liner notes was some fifty years ago.

Herb Wong was a critic, record producer, educator and radio DJ on the former station KJAZ in San Francisco. He also wrote liner notes for many of the great jazz musicians of the 20th century.

Jazz on My Mind: Liner Notes, Anecdotes and Conversations from the 1940s to the 2000s (McFarland; April 18, 2016; 248 pages; \$39.95), co-written with Paul Simeon Fingerote (who was the Marketing Director for the Monterey Jazz Festival) offers readers a delightful curated vision of America's music genre.

The collection is organized as if it were an extended play CD, with "tracks" for each instrument, from Big Bands to Trumpet, to Vibraphone, to Vocals.

In each "track", you'll find Wong's liner notes for records, interviews, as well as anecdotes about his spectacular life in jazz.

Reading Wong's liner-note prose is a pure joy. His enthusiasm will send you to the record store, and his encyclopedic knowledge will inform your listening.

You can read the book from cover to cover, and you'll be tempted to do just that. But it is also perfect for causal reading, and as a reference if you're listening to the music.

If you're unfamiliar with jazz music and want a starter's guide, I cannot imagine a better book. This is truly fun to read, a time capsule into another era and even another version of English that you simply won't read or find anywhere else.

Wong was a charming, genuine genius, but you don't need to be one to dig his writing.

Rick Kleffel
Reviewer / National Public Radio