

miles davis gil evans sketches of spain

Miles Davis Gil Evans Sketches of Spain: An In-Depth Exploration of a Musical Masterpiece

Introduction

When discussing jazz masterpieces that have stood the test of time, few albums evoke the rich tapestry of emotion, innovation, and cultural fusion quite like *Sketches of Spain*. Crafted through a collaboration between legendary trumpeter Miles Davis and renowned composer and arranger Gil Evans, this album transcends conventional jazz boundaries to create a unique, evocative sonic landscape. The title itself hints at the album's deep inspiration drawn from Spain's diverse musical heritage, capturing the essence of a land filled with history, passion, and artistry. This article delves into the origins, musical significance, and enduring legacy of *Sketches of Spain*, examining how Davis and Evans masterfully bridged jazz with Spanish musical elements to produce an iconic work.

The Origins of *Sketches of Spain*

Background and Context

The early 1960s was a period of experimentation and boundary-pushing in jazz. Miles Davis, already an influential figure in the genre, sought to expand his musical horizons beyond bebop and hard bop. Collaborating with Gil Evans, who had previously arranged Davis's groundbreaking album *Birth of the Cool*, the duo aimed to explore new thematic material and sonic textures.

The project was conceived as a tribute to Spanish culture, inspired by Davis's fascination with the country's history and music. The idea was to blend jazz improvisation with Spanish musical elements like flamenco, classical guitar, and regional folk melodies. The result was an ambitious album that would redefine the possibilities of jazz arrangement and composition.

Recording and Production

Recorded over several sessions between 1959 and 1960, *Sketches of Spain* features a carefully curated ensemble of jazz and classical musicians. The recording sessions took place in New York City, with the album's sound reflecting meticulous production values that emphasized orchestral textures and lyrical melodies.

Gil Evans's arrangements played a crucial role, weaving together rich harmonies, lush orchestrations, and evocative motifs. Davis's trumpet serves as the emotional core, delivering solos that are both expressive and technically masterful. The album's production aimed to create a cinematic quality, immersing listeners in the vivid landscapes and emotional depth of Spain.

The Musical Composition of *Sketches of Spain*

Key Tracks and Their Significance

The album features several standout tracks, each contributing to the overarching theme of Spanish culture and landscape.

1. **“Concierto de Aranjuez (Adagio)”** – A jazz interpretation of the famous Joaquín Rodrigo classical guitar concerto. Davis’s haunting trumpet melody captures the contemplative and melancholic mood of the original, serving as a centerpiece of the album.
2. **“Solea”** – Inspired by the flamenco form, this track features intense rhythmic patterns and passionate solos that evoke the spirit of Spanish flamenco music.
3. **“Willie Nelson”** – Named after the jazz saxophonist Willie Nelson, this composition blends bluesy melodies with Spanish musical motifs, illustrating the fusion of American jazz and Spanish themes.
4. **“The Pan Piper”** – An evocative piece with a pastoral, almost mystical atmosphere, showcasing Evans’s skillful orchestral arrangements.

Musical Elements and Styles

- **Spanish Folk and Classical Influences:** The album incorporates motifs from flamenco, classical guitar, and regional folk music, creating a fusion that feels authentic and respectful.
- **Orchestral Arrangements:** Gil Evans’s lush orchestrations use a large ensemble including strings, French horns, and woodwinds, providing a cinematic backdrop for Davis’s improvisations.
- **Jazz Improvisation:** Davis’s solos are deeply expressive, blending bebop vocabulary with lyrical melodies inspired by Spanish melodies.
- **Harmonic Richness:** The arrangements employ complex harmonies, modal scales, and chromaticism, elevating the jazz form into a sophisticated art music.

The Artistic Collaboration Between Miles Davis and Gil

Evans

Synergy and Creative Dynamics

The partnership between Miles Davis and Gil Evans is considered one of the most influential collaborations in jazz history. Their creative synergy resulted in innovative arrangements that blurred the boundaries between jazz, classical, and world music.

Davis's improvisational genius combined with Evans's mastery of orchestration created a sound that was both modern and rooted in tradition. Their shared vision allowed them to craft albums like *Sketches of Spain* that are characterized by their atmospheric depth and emotional resonance.

Influence on Jazz and Beyond

The collaboration set a precedent for future jazz arrangements and genre-blending projects. It demonstrated that jazz could be a serious art form capable of expressing complex cultural narratives and sophisticated musical ideas.

The album's influence extended beyond jazz into classical and world music circles, inspiring artists to explore cross-genre collaborations.

The Legacy and Impact of *Sketches of Spain*

Critical Reception and Awards

Upon release, *Sketches of Spain* received widespread critical acclaim. It was praised for its lush arrangements, emotional depth, and innovative fusion of musical styles. The album is often cited in critics' lists of the greatest jazz albums of all time.

While it did not win major awards at the time, its influence grew steadily, and it is now regarded as a landmark recording in jazz history.

Enduring Influence in Music

The album's influence can be seen across various musical genres and artists:

- Jazz musicians continue to study and reinterpret its arrangements.
- Classical composers cite it as an example of successful cross-genre collaboration.

- World music artists draw inspiration from its fusion approach.
- Modern producers incorporate its lush textures into contemporary soundscapes.

Reissues and Continued Relevance

Over the decades, *Sketches of Spain* has been reissued multiple times, often remastered to enhance sound quality. Its timeless appeal ensures that new generations of listeners discover and appreciate its artistry.

The album's themes of cultural exploration and emotional expression remain relevant today, resonating with audiences worldwide.

Conclusion: Why *Sketches of Spain* Remains a Classic

Sketches of Spain stands as a testament to the power of collaborative creativity, cultural appreciation, and musical innovation. Through the masterful partnership of Miles Davis and Gil Evans, it created a lush, evocative soundscape that continues to inspire musicians and listeners alike. Its blend of jazz improvisation, classical sophistication, and Spanish musical elements makes it a timeless masterpiece that transcends genre boundaries.

Whether you are a jazz aficionado, a classical music lover, or someone interested in cultural fusion, *Sketches of Spain* offers a rich auditory experience that captures the soul of Spain through the lens of jazz artistry. Its enduring legacy is a reminder of how music can serve as a bridge between worlds, fostering understanding, emotion, and artistic excellence.

Explore this masterpiece today and discover why *Sketches of Spain* remains a cornerstone of 20th-century music.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the significance of Miles Davis's 'Sketches of Spain' in jazz history?

'Sketches of Spain' is considered one of Miles Davis's most ambitious and influential albums, blending jazz with Spanish musical themes and showcasing innovative arrangements that expanded the boundaries of jazz.

Who collaborated with Miles Davis on 'Sketches of Spain'?

The album features collaborations with arranger and composer Gil Evans, as well as Spanish guitarist Paco de Lucía and other talented musicians, creating a rich, textured sound.

What are the main musical influences in 'Sketches of Spain'?

The album draws heavily from Spanish folk and classical music, incorporating elements like flamenco and orchestral textures to evoke the spirit of Spain.

How does 'Sketches of Spain' differ from other Miles Davis albums?

'Sketches of Spain' is unique for its orchestral arrangements and thematic approach, making it more of a jazz suite inspired by Spanish culture rather than a traditional jazz record.

What tracks are included in 'Sketches of Spain'?

Notable tracks include 'Concierto de Aranjuez (Adagio),' 'Solea,' and 'Sketches of Spain,' each reflecting different facets of Spanish musical heritage.

What role did Gil Evans play in the creation of 'Sketches of Spain'?

Gil Evans was the primary arranger and co-creator of the album, contributing innovative orchestral arrangements that blended jazz with Spanish musical motifs.

Is 'Sketches of Spain' considered a jazz standard or a classic album?

It is widely regarded as a classic album in jazz history and an innovative masterpiece that continues to influence musicians across genres.

How was 'Sketches of Spain' received upon its release?

The album was critically acclaimed for its originality and depth, though it was also considered experimental at the time, gaining recognition as a landmark work in jazz fusion.

Has 'Sketches of Spain' influenced other musical genres or artists?

Yes, its blend of jazz, classical, and world music elements has inspired numerous artists across genres, including jazz musicians, classical composers, and world music artists.

Additional Resources

Miles Davis Gil Evans "Sketches of Spain": An In-Depth Exploration of a Jazz Masterpiece

Introduction

stands as a hallmark in the history of jazz, a collaborative masterpiece that transcends genre

boundaries and cultural borders. Released in 1960, this album is the fruit of the creative synergy between iconic trumpeter Miles Davis and the visionary composer and arranger Gil Evans. Combining jazz improvisation with orchestral textures and Spanish melodies, "Sketches of Spain" has maintained its relevance for over six decades, captivating audiences and critics alike. This article delves into the origins, musical elements, cultural influences, and lasting impact of this landmark album, offering a comprehensive yet accessible guide to understanding its enduring significance.

The Origins of "Sketches of Spain": Context and Collaboration

The Cultural and Musical Climate of the Late 1950s

In the late 1950s, jazz was undergoing a period of rapid evolution. Bebop had established itself as the dominant style, characterized by complex harmonies and fast tempos. Simultaneously, artists like Miles Davis sought new directions, exploring modal jazz, cool jazz, and integrating diverse musical influences. The post-war era also saw increased global cultural exchanges, with American jazz musicians increasingly inspired by European classical music and Latin American rhythms.

Davis, already renowned for his innovative approach, was interested in expanding his musical palette. His collaboration with Gil Evans, begun in the early 1950s, had produced several influential albums like "Miles Ahead" and "Porgy and Bess." These projects demonstrated Evans's genius in orchestral arrangements and his ability to blend jazz improvisation with lush orchestral textures.

The Genesis of the Project

The idea for "Sketches of Spain" emerged from Davis's fascination with Spanish culture, particularly its music, history, and landscapes. Davis had traveled to Spain in the late 1950s and was deeply inspired by the country's musical traditions and poetic landscapes. He envisioned an album capturing the essence of Spain's soul—its melancholy, beauty, and mystique.

Gil Evans, known for his meticulous arrangements and innovative orchestral techniques, was the perfect collaborator to realize this vision. Together, they crafted a concept album that fused jazz improvisation with Spanish melodies, classical influences, and evocative orchestral sounds. The project was ambitious: it required blending multiple musical genres and cultural elements into a cohesive artistic statement.

Musical Elements and Innovations in "Sketches of Spain"

The Arrangements: A Fusion of Jazz, Classical, and Spanish Music

One of the defining features of "Sketches of Spain" is Evans's masterful arrangements. They serve as the album's backbone, providing a lush, cinematic soundscape that transports listeners to the Spanish landscape. Key elements include:

- **Orchestral Textures:** Evans employed a full orchestra, including strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion, to create atmospheric layers and emotional depth.
- **Modal and Harmonic Innovation:** The arrangements often utilize modal scales, giving the music an exotic and contemplative quality, reminiscent of Spanish folk and classical music.

- Cultural References: Melodies are derived from traditional Spanish songs, such as the iconic “Concierto de Aranjuez” by Joaquín Rodrigo, which becomes a central motif.

The Soloists and Their Contributions

While Miles Davis’s trumpet work is often understated in this album, it is no less expressive. His tone is lyrical and introspective, perfectly suited to the reflective mood of the pieces. The orchestra, guided by Evans’s arrangements, creates a rich tapestry that complements Davis’s improvisations.

Other notable musicians include:

- Gil Evans himself on piano and as the arranger.
- Paul Chambers on bass, providing a steady rhythmic foundation.
- Jimmy Cobb on drums, adding subtle rhythmic accents.
- Julian “Cannonball” Adderley and Eric Dolphy (on some sessions), contributing additional improvisational depth.

The Key Tracks and Their Musical Significance

The album features several standout compositions, each contributing to the overall narrative:

- “Concierto de Aranjuez (Adagio)”: An adaptation of Rodrigo’s classical piece, transformed into a jazz ballad. Davis’s muted trumpet captures a sense of longing and introspection.
- “Solea”: Named after a traditional Spanish dance form, this piece employs flamenco-inspired rhythms and melodies.
- “Will O’ the Wisp”: An original composition evoking a mystical, fleeting quality, with evanescent orchestral textures.
- “Manhã de Carnaval”: A Brazilian song that, while not Spanish, complements the album’s exploration of Latin influences.

Cultural and Artistic Influences

The Spanish Musical Heritage

“Sketches of Spain” is more than a jazz album; it is a cultural homage. The influence of Spanish classical guitar, flamenco, and folk music is woven throughout. Davis and Evans sought to evoke Spain’s poetic landscapes and emotional depth through music.

- Classical Spanish Music: Rodrigo’s “Concierto de Aranjuez” is a pivotal inspiration, representing Spain’s rich classical tradition.
- Folk and Flamenco: Rhythms and melodies reminiscent of flamenco dance and song are subtly incorporated, adding authenticity and emotional resonance.
- Poetry and Literature: The album’s mood aligns with Spanish poetic traditions, emphasizing themes of longing, nostalgia, and spirituality.

The Cinematic Quality

Many critics describe “Sketches of Spain” as akin to a musical film score. Evans’s arrangements evoke vivid imagery—desert landscapes, bustling plazas, quiet nights—making the album a sonic

journey through Spain's diverse terrains and moods.

The Artistic Impact and Legacy

Critical Reception and Influence

Upon release, "Sketches of Spain" received widespread acclaim, praised for its innovative fusion of jazz and orchestral music. Over time, it has been recognized as a pioneering work that expanded the possibilities of jazz arrangements and cross-cultural collaboration.

- Innovative Fusion: The album bridged jazz, classical, and world music, influencing countless artists across genres.
- Cinematic and Visual: Its evocative soundscapes inspired filmmakers, composers, and jazz musicians to think beyond traditional boundaries.

Legacy and Reinterpretations

Decades after its initial release, "Sketches of Spain" remains a benchmark for musical experimentation. It has been reissued, remastered, and analyzed extensively. Contemporary artists continue to draw inspiration from its innovative arrangements and emotional depth.

- Modern reinterpretations: Musicians like Wynton Marsalis, Herbie Hancock, and the Mars Volta have paid homage or reimagined its themes.
- Academic analyses: Musicologists study its structure, arrangements, and cultural significance, cementing its place in the canon of jazz and modern music.

Final Thoughts: Why "Sketches of Spain" Endures

The enduring appeal of "Sketches of Spain" lies in its universal themes and artistic daring. It exemplifies how jazz, often seen as spontaneous and improvisational, can also be meticulously crafted as a form of high art. The album's blend of rich orchestral textures with the soulful expression of improvisation creates a timeless work that continues to resonate.

In an era where musical genres are increasingly fluid, "Sketches of Spain" remains a shining example of cross-cultural collaboration and artistic innovation. It reminds us that music has the power to transcend borders, evoke profound emotion, and tell stories that are as timeless as the landscapes of Spain itself.

In conclusion, Miles Davis and Gil Evans's "Sketches of Spain" is more than an album; it is a cultural artifact that captures a moment of artistic synthesis and exploration. Its musical richness, emotional depth, and cultural homage ensure its place as one of the greatest achievements in jazz history and beyond. Whether listened to as a work of art or studied as a pioneering example of cross-genre experimentation, it continues to inspire and captivate audiences worldwide.

Miles Davis Gil Evans Sketches Of Spain

miles davis gil evans sketches of spain: *Annual Review of Jazz Studies 12: 2002* Edward Berger, David Cayer, Henry Martin, Dan Morgenstern, George Bassett, 2004-06-14 This twelfth volume of the Annual Review celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the Institute of Jazz Studies and features articles covering subjects which have not been engaged in past issues of the Review. Gil Evans, Django Reinhardt, Lucky Thompson, and Paul Bley each receive much deserved critical attention in this issue. This issue also includes a photo gallery illustrating some of the prominent locations and people of the Institute's history, both in New York and at its present home at Rutgers in Newark, New Jersey.

miles davis gil evans sketches of spain: The Miles Davis Reader Frank Alkyer, 2023-11-30 If you ever needed proof that a magazine can have a love affair with a musician, you're holding it in your hands. For DownBeat, the preeminent publication of the jazz world, Miles Dewey Davis was one of its most cherished subjects. Since it began covering the jazz scene in 1939, no other artist has been more diligently chronicled in its pages than Davis. The beauty of this collection is seeing the development of an artist over time. The reviews of his music go from quietly introducing a new talent to revering, perhaps, the greatest jazz artist of his generation. The feature articles begin with a very young, very polite Davis lamenting, "I've worked so little. I could probably tell you where I was playing any night in the last three years." As he develops, the interviews show Davis gaining confidence and stature, showing swagger and becoming the over-the-top, say-it-like-it-is showman that made every interview an event. The Miles Davis Reader compiles more than 200 news stories, feature articles, and reviews by some of the greatest writers in jazz into one volume. It delivers a patchwork of his words and music - in the moment, as they happened. With several lengthy features added along with a dozen new photographs, this new edition is a beautiful series of snapshots, a year-by-year ride through the many phases of Davis as an artist and as a man.

miles davis gil evans sketches of spain: Miles Davis Ron Carter, Clark Terry, Lenny White, Greg Tate, Ashley Kahn, Robin D. G. Kelley, 2012-11-19 Here is the illustrated history of Miles Davis, the world's most popular jazz trumpeter, composer, bandleader, and musical visionary. Davis is one of the most innovative, influential, and respected figures in the history of music. He's been at the forefront of bebop, cool jazz, hard bop, modal jazz, and jazz-rock fusion, and remains the favorite and best-selling jazz artist ever, beloved worldwide. He's also a fascinating character - "moody, dangerous, brilliant. His story is phenomenal, including tempestuous relationships with movie stars, heroin addictions, police busts, and more; connections with other jazz greats like Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonius Monk, John Coltrane, Gil Evans, John McLaughlin, and many others; and later fusion ventures that outraged the worlds of jazz and rock. Written by an all-star team, including Sonny Rollins, Bill Cosby, Herbie Hancock, Ron Carter, Clark Terry, Lenny White, Greg Tate, Ashley Kahn, Robin D. G. Kelley, Francis Davis, George Wein, Vincent Bessières, Gerald Early, Nate Chinen, Nalini Jones, Dave Liebman, Garth Cartwright, and more.

miles davis gil evans sketches of spain: Miles Davis and American Culture Gerald Lyn Early, 2001 His music provoked discussion of art versus commerce, the relationship of artist to audience, and the definition of jazz itself. Whether the topic is race, fashion, or gender relations, the cultural debate about Davis's life remains a confluence..

miles davis gil evans sketches of spain: Miles Davis Ian Carr, 2009-04-30 This exhaustively researched, revised edition of Ian Carr's classic biography throws new light on Davis' life and career: from the early days in New York with Charlie Parker; to the Birth of Cool; through his drug addiction in the early 1950s and the years of extraordinary achievements (1954-1960), during which he signed with Columbia and collaborated with such unequaled talents as John Coltrane, Bill Evans, Wynton Kelly and Cannonball Adderly. Carr also explores Davis' dark, reclusive period (1975-1980), offering firsthand accounts of his descent into addiction, as well as his dramatic return to life and music.

Carr has talked with the people who knew Miles and his music best including Bill Evans, Joe Zawinul, Keith Jarrett, and Jack DeJohnette, and has conducted interviews with Ron Carter, Max Roach, John Scofield and others.

miles davis gil evans sketches of spain: *The Mojo Collection* Jim Irvin, 2009-06-04 Organised chronologically and spanning seven decades, The MOJO Collection presents an authoritative and engaging guide to the history of the pop album via hundreds of long-playing masterpieces, from the much-loved to the little known. From The Beatles to The Verve, from Duke Ellington to King Tubby and from Peggy Lee to Sly Stone, hundreds of albums are covered in detail with chart histories, full track and personnel listings and further listening suggestions. There's also exhaustive coverage of the soundtrack and hit collections that every home should have. Like all collections, there are records you listen to constantly, albums you've forgotten, albums you hardly play, albums you love guiltily and albums you thought you were alone in treasuring, proving The MOJO Collection to be an essential purchase for those who love and live music

miles davis gil evans sketches of spain: *Miles* Marc Antomattei, 2011-03-19 You can't be a Miles Davis completist without owning this book; it is a collector's item in and of itself! Miles: The Companion Guide to the Autobiography is an annotated guide to Miles' own book previously released over twenty years ago in 1989. In his autobiography, Miles talks in great detail about all of his recording sessions with all his various labels. He usually mentions things in detail such as when they were done, who was playing with him at that session, whose arrangements the tunes were from and so forth. Use this annotated sequencing companion guide to help you find and listen to those particular tunes within your collection or to help you track down those missing tracks so you can compile your own soundtrack to his life. This guide will give you a perfectly good reason to reread the autobiography, and trust me; it is better the second time around with this. Core content includes: *A listing of 388 jazz tunes and albums as mentioned by Miles Davis himself in his autobiography; Use as a guide to help you find and listen to those particular tunes within your collection or to help you track down those missing tracks so you can compile your own soundtrack to his life. Supplemental features of this book include: *An eleven page summary of the autobiography *An exclusive never before seen article Miles Davis vs. Wynton Marsalis *A listing of all Miles Davis Video & Audio Interviews *A listing of all Miles Davis DVDs *A listing of all Miles Davis Concert CDs *A Miles Davis buyers guide for both completists with no spending budget and for conscience spending people. *An appraisal guide of all Miles Davis special edition CDs including: Special edition box sets, special anniversary editions, remastered editions, Japanese editions, rare & out-of-print CDs, 24k gold CDs, Blu-Spec CDs, SACDs, Hybrid SACDs, SHM-CDs, and HQCDs. *A listing of Miles Davis jazz standards and author's favorites.

miles davis gil evans sketches of spain: *John Cage's Concert for Piano and Orchestra* Martin Iddon, Philip Thomas, 2020-05-14 Looking at one of the twentieth century's most notorious musical masterpieces, John Cage's Concert for Piano and Orchestra examines Cage's compositional process, its infamous performance history, and its influence on philosophical ideas of what music actually is.

miles davis gil evans sketches of spain: *Miles Davis, and Jazz as Religion* Earnest N. Bracey, 2021-10-01 This book about Miles Davis is more psychologically driven than a straight biography; but it does cover his musical career, as well his spirituality as a jazz musician. Davis rocketed to jazz fame as a trumpeter, making a plethora of jazz recordings during his life time; and his music kept the "jazz world" on edge for almost fifty years. This book also discusses Davis's religion, politics, civil rights activism, and his personal struggles as a Black man in the United States. Miles Davis and Jazz as Religion: The Politics of Social Music also shows how Miles Davis made a political statement, as he challenged racial stereotypes in jazz or "social music." Artistically, Davis was able to integrate rock, jazz, classical music, rap and blues, in his music, as he had a passion for changing his "social music." In this regard, Miles Davis's music was important to him intellectually, spiritually, and psychologically, because he wanted to make his musical contributions count.

miles davis gil evans sketches of spain: *Creative Jazz Improvisation* Scott Reeves, Tom

Walsh, 2022-08-19 The leading textbook in jazz improvisation, *Creative Jazz Improvisation*, Fifth Edition represents a compendium of knowledge and practice resources for the university classroom, suitable for all musicians looking to develop and sharpen their soloing skills. Logically organized and guided by a philosophy that encourages creativity, this book presents practical advice beyond the theoretical, featuring exercises in twelve keys, ear training and keyboard drills, a comprehensive catalog of relevant songs to learn, and a wide range of solo transcriptions, each transposed for C, Bb, Eb, and bass clef instruments. Chapters highlight discussions of jazz theory - covering topics such as major scale modes, forms, chord substitutions, melodic minor modes, diminished and whole-tone modes, pentatonic scales, intervallic improvisation, free improvisation, and more - while featuring updated content throughout on the nuts and bolts of learning to improvise. New to the Fifth Edition: Co-author Tom Walsh Additional solo transcriptions featuring the work of female and Latino jazz artists A new chapter, "Odd Meters" A robust companion website featuring additional exercises, ear training, play-along tracks, tunes, call and response tracks, keyboard voicings, and transcriptions, alongside Spotify and YouTube links to many of the featured solos Rooted in an understanding that there is no one right way to learn jazz, *Creative Jazz Improvisation*, Fifth Edition explores the means and methods for developing one's jazz vocabulary and improvisational techniques.

miles davis gil evans sketches of spain: *Cats Of Any Color* Gene Lees, 2009-04-30 In a series of candid interviews with jazz players, composers, and critics, Gene Lees explores racism in the past and present of jazz—both the white racism that for decades ghettoized black musicians and their music, and the prejudice that Lees documents of some black musicians against their white counterparts. With subjects ranging from Horace Silver to Dave Brubeck to Red Rodney, and a new introduction analyzing recent developments, *Cats of Any Color* chronicles jazz as a multiethnic art.

miles davis gil evans sketches of spain: *The Tombstone Tourist* Scott Stanton, 2003-09 Offers a guide to the shrines, graves, and memorabilia of jazz, blues, country, rhythm and blues, and rock musicians.

miles davis gil evans sketches of spain: *Latin Jazz* Christopher Washburne, 2020 Jazz has always been a genre built on the blending of disparate musical cultures. Latin jazz illustrates this perhaps better than any other style in this rich tradition, yet its cultural heritage has been all but erased from narratives of jazz history. Told from the perspective of a long-time jazz insider, *Latin Jazz: The Other Jazz* corrects the record, providing a historical account that embraces the genre's international nature and explores the dynamic interplay of economics, race, ethnicity, and nationalism that shaped it.

miles davis gil evans sketches of spain: *Because the Light Will Not Forgive Me* Shaun T. Griffin, 2019-06-05 "Think of a man walking in the desert," writes Griffin, "looking for the path to its summit, looking for the observatory that may, at last, shed light on what's below." In this luminous and moving book of essays, award-winning author Shaun Griffin weaves together a poetic meditation on living meaningfully in this world. Anchored in the American West but reaching well beyond, he recounts his discoveries as a poet and devoted reader of poetry, a teacher of the disadvantaged, a friend of poets and artists, and a responsible member of the human family. Always grounded in place, be it Nevada, South Africa, North Dakota, Spain, Zimbabwe, or Mexico, Griffin confronts the world with an openness that allows him to learn and grow from the people he meets. This is a meditation on how all of us can confront our own influences to achieve wholeness in our lives. Along with Griffin, readers will reflect on how they might respond to a homeless man walking through central Nevada, viewing the open desert as Thoreau might have viewed Walden, seeing the US-Mexico border as a region of lost identity, reconciling how poets who live west of the Hudson River find anonymity to be their laurel, and experiencing how writing poetry in prison becomes lifesaving. Whether poets or places in the West or beyond, experiences with other cultures, or an acute awareness that poetry is the refuge of redress—all have influenced Griffin's writing and thinking as a poet and activist in the Great Basin. The mindfulness of *Because the Light Will Not Forgive Me* demonstrates that even though the light does not forgive, it still reveals.

miles davis gil evans sketches of spain: *Beyond and Before* Paul Hegarty, Martin Halliwell, 2011-06-23 A brilliant new survey and intelligent exploration of progressive rock, from its origins through to contemporary artists. Nicely illustrated, it includes rare photos of artists like Kate Bush and Genesis.

miles davis gil evans sketches of spain: Modern Jazz Trumpet Legends Larry Kemp, 2018-06-26 *Modern Jazz Trumpet Legends* By: Larry Kemp *Modern Jazz Trumpet Legends* is an examination of the lives and contributions of jazz trumpeters born between 1925 and 1940. Included are Miles Davis, Maynard Ferguson, Doc Severinsen, Chet Baker, and Clifford Brown along with scores of other men and women who created jazz with a trumpet. This is an essential guide for the student of jazz, those interested in history, and those who just like to read entertaining true stories about the most colorful people. The Jazz Trumpet Legends three volume series is the most comprehensive book on the subject. In the series, 867 trumpeters are discussed. The second volume covers the trumpeters in the center of the history of jazz. There are the sad stories of those who died too young (Clifford Brown at 25, Ray Wetzel at 27 from automobile accidents; Joe Gordon at 35 from a house fire; Booker Little at 23 from uremia), balanced by the positive stories of those who accomplished much with their lives (Miles Davis invented cool jazz and fusion; Maynard Ferguson took the trumpet to new heights; Lionel Ferbos performed regularly for a couple of years after his hundredth birthday; Clara Bryant and Betty O'Hara showed that women could get the job done on the trumpet). *Modern Jazz Trumpet Legends* contains two appendices that apply to trumpeters in all three volumes: a yearly calendar showing, for each day of the year, the trumpeters born on that date; and a geographical listing of the states and countries showing, for each place, the trumpeters born there. *Early Jazz Trumpet Legends* is the first of three volumes organized chronologically by date of birth. The second volume, *Modern Jazz Trumpet Legends* covers those born between 1925 and 1940 and the third volume, *Current Jazz Trumpet Legends*, covers those born after 1940.

miles davis gil evans sketches of spain: The Blue Moment: Miles Davis's Kind of Blue and the Remaking of Modern Music Richard Williams, 2010-04-12 A brilliant, wide-ranging book on how Miles Davis's seminal 1959 jazz album *Kind of Blue* revolutionized music and culture in the 20th century.

miles davis gil evans sketches of spain: Natural Selection Gary Giddins, 2006 Long recognized as America's most brilliant jazz writer, the winner of many major awards--including the prestigious National Book Critics Circle Award--and author of a highly popular biography of Bing Crosby, Gary Giddins has also produced a wide range of stimulating and original cultural criticism in other fields. With *Natural Selection*, he brings together the best of these previously uncollected essays, including a few written expressly for this volume. The range of topics is spellbinding. Writing with insight, humor, and a famously deft touch, he offers sharp-edged perspectives on such diverse subjects as Federico Fellini and Jean Renoir, Norman Mailer and Ralph Ellison, Marlon Brando and Groucho Marx, Duke Ellington and Bob Dylan, horror and noir, the cartoon version of *Animal Farm* and the comic book series *Classics Illustrated*. Giddins brings to criticism an uncommon ability, long demonstrated in his music writing, to address in very few words an entire career, so that we get an in-depth portrait of the artist beyond the film, book, or recording under review. For instance, Giddins offers a stunning reappraisal of Doris Day, who he terms the coolest and sexiest female singer of slow ballads in film history. He argues eloquently for a reconsideration of the forgotten German-language novelist Soma Morgenstern. In a section on comedy, he offers fresh perspectives on the three great silent film stars--Chaplin, Keaton, and Lloyd--while resurrecting the legendary Jack Benny and reevaluating the controversial Jerry Lewis. There's also a memorable look at Bing Crosby's film career (he calls Crosby's blockbuster *Going My Way* a neglected masterpiece) and a close examination of Marcel Carne's beloved *Children of Paradise*. Of course, Giddins also supplies excellent commentary on jazz: major and underrated figures, and especially the uses of jazz in film. A wonderful gathering of little-known treasures, *Natural Selection* will broaden the perception of Gary Giddins as one of our most important cultural critics.

miles davis gil evans sketches of spain: Got Live Album If You Want It! Avram Mednick,

2013-11-13 This is Avram Mednicks third non-fiction book about music. Go figure, since his best instrument is the radio. This one is about live albums, one hundred of which he discusses. He seems to be stuck on that number.

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