ORNETTE COLEMAN: MUSIC ALWAYS
BY STEVE DAY
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Only £14.99 (plus £2 p&p UK)

Anyone who is seriously interested in the development of a Jazz aesthetic should read this book. “Ornette Coleman: Music Always” by Steve Day. It’s a brilliant and lucid personal appreciation of a revolutionary and enduring Jazz Icon!!!!

Written in the authors wonderful ‘first person’ style, it is as much an insight into Day’s own experiences as it is the life of a true legend. Features over 260 pages and many photographs plus a full discography.

Barry McRae, writing in Jazz Journal, once compared Steve Day’s writing to that of the greatest jazz critic, Whitney Balliett. When Steve’s first book, “Two Full Ears” was produced Barry McRae commented that, “At his best, Whitney Balliett wrote in a manner that allowed the reader to hear the music. Day continues in that tradition. He combines insightful analysis with a descriptive flair that includes himself as well as the world around him. The important point is that Day is a real writer.”

“Two Full Ears” took a broad view of a number of different musicians. Now in this fascinating study of Ornette Coleman, Steve Day focuses his writing skills on one individual, the legendary alto saxophone player whose name is synonymous with the birth and development of “Free Jazz”. Ornette Coleman changed the whole rationale behind jazz music. Leonard Bernstein called him a genius, Dizzy Gillespie once asked if he was serious. No player before or since has managed to split critical opinion so decisively.

What cannot be denied is that Ornette Coleman changed forever the way all people, musicians and listeners alike, approach the “Art of the Improviser”. Steve Day is clear about his position in the argument. He takes our ears on a journey of discovery, from the first Ornette Coleman recordings in 1958 through to the Prime Time present (and maybe even beyond!)..