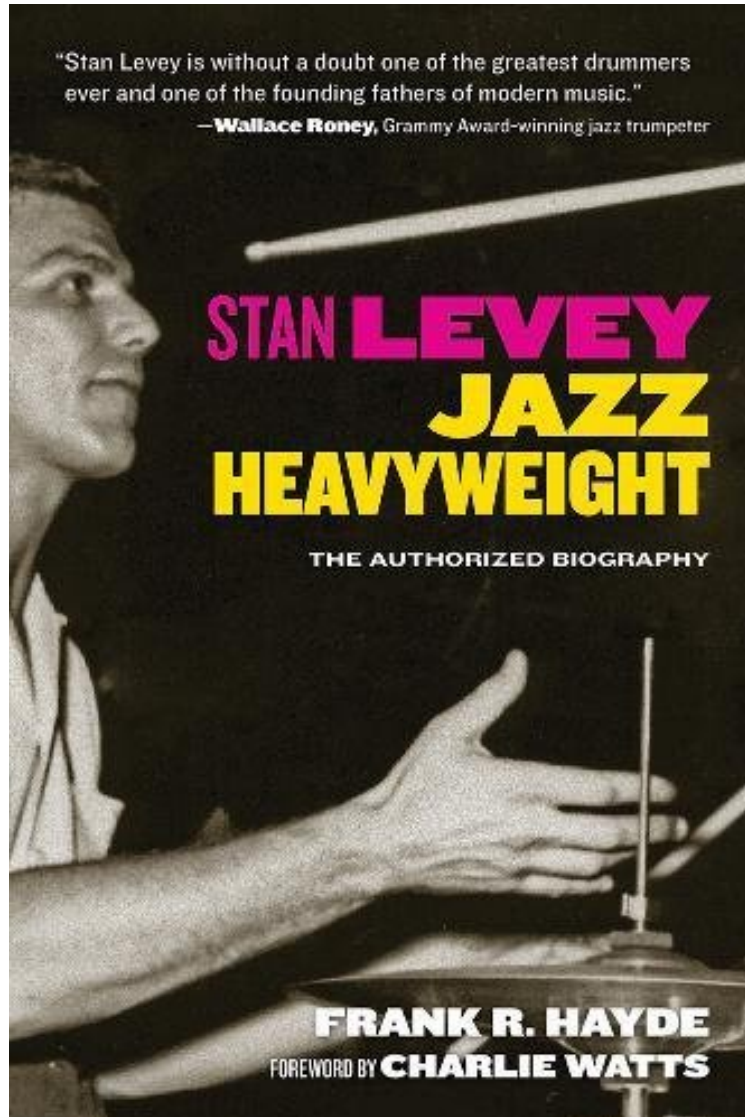


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Stan Levey: Jazz Heavyweight

Frank R. Hayde

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Frank R. Hayde : Stan Levey: Jazz Heavyweight before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stan Levey: Jazz Heavyweight:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very highly recommended! By T. Fox Stan Levey's remarkable role in the development of Bebop, his relationships with jazz and boxing greats, his personal triumph over addiction, and his solid character as father, husband, and provider all make for a compelling story. That he was a unique individual, teaching himself to play drums, and following fearlessly his important role as co-innovator of a new enduring style of music, is manifest on each page of this well written book. Very highly recommended! 2 of 2 people found the

following review helpful. Informative account of a seminal figure around the birth of bop. By Nelson Gonzalez Interesting and informative account of a seminal figure around the birth of bop, this book describes Stan Levey's interactions with the musicians of the era. The war on drugs, and its pervasive disastrous effects on fragile musicians trying to make a living playing jazz, is another theme in Mr. Levey's book. A highly recommended book for those interested in the forgotten heroes of the bebop era. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable read. By Stuart Y. I thoroughly enjoyed this bio. Like the Stan Levey DVD "The Original Original" (which I think is one of the best jazz bio DVDs) the focus is on the music. While neither the book or the DVD explain how Levey could develop and adapt his playing so readily, Levey's career is well-chronicled. And the biggest news, which may be a spoiler of sorts: Stan Levey was not left-handed.

Stan Levey is one of the most influential drummers in the history of modern jazz. During his extraordinary career, the self-taught Levey played alongside a who's who of twentieth century jazz artists: Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Stan Getz, Coleman Hawkins, Art Tatum, Ben Webster, Dexter Gordon, Lester Young, Thelonius Monk, Benny Goodman, Woody Herman, Ella Fitzgerald . . . the remarkable list goes on and on, and includes dozens of the most distinguished names in the annals of jazz and popular music. Jazz Heavyweight follows Levey's prolific and colorful life, from his childhood days in rough-and-tumble North Philadelphia, to his first gig as a drummer for Dizzy Gillespie at the tender age of sixteen, to his meteoric rise as one of the most sought after sidemen in the world of bebop, to his membership in the Lighthouse All-Stars. Jazz aficionados will relish Jazz Heavyweight for its new, never-before-published information about such hugely influential musicians as Parker, Gillespie, and Davis, while jazz neophytes will find a fast-paced, colorful encapsulation of the entire history of modern jazz. This book is essential reading for anyone seeking an up-close-and-personal look at jazz in the latter half of the twentieth century.

Stan Levey is without a doubt one of the greatest drummers ever and one of the founding fathers of modern music. Along with Klook, Max and Art, there was Stan Levey, who learned directly from Dizzy when they were both living in Philadelphia. As a result, Stan contributed to this beautiful art form and played on some pivotal recordings. Jazz Heavyweight is fascinating! Wallace Roney, Grammy Award-winning jazz trumpeter I think Jazz Heavyweight is a piece of jazz history that's very important to document. Stan is a link. His life is an amazing story and he was a lovely man. I was totally in awe of meeting him and the legacy that he carries. Charlie Watts, Rolling Stones drummer Stan Levey was the drummer every be-bopper wanted in his rhythm section. And with good reason. Jazz Heavyweight illuminates his role as an ultimate insider and important player musically and otherwise during one of jazz history's most vital eras. Don Heckman, International of Music Jazz Heavyweight embraces the life and times of a renaissance man in a topsy turvy world, rich with personalities and celebrities. Having lived through some of this crazy world with Stan and my Dad, this biography really hit home. A must read. Frank Marshall, motion picture director and producer It has been my privilege to have known and worked with Stan Levey. Stan was one of the greatest drummers of our time. While reading this book I was reminded of the many facets of Stan and it invoked several memories of our years working together in the early 1960s with Dizzy Gillespie. He truly had a strong sense of musicality and most importantly soul, which was evident in each and every performance. Lalo Schifrin, Grammy Award-winning pianist and composer Stan Levey was a superb, yet underrated drummer on both the New York bebop scene and the West Coast milieu. Frank Haydes engaging biography shines a welcome light on this remarkable percussionist and delivers choice stories, a great many in Levey's own voice, lending a deep credibility to this book. Zan Stewart, ASCAP-Deems Taylor Award recipient "In a straightforward style, Hayde tells the story of Stan Levey, a self-taught bebop drummer whose life is truly the stuff of legend. The tale, which opens a striking foreword by Rolling Stones drummer Charlie Watts, concerns a scrappy Jewish kid of North Philadelphia, the child of a mobbed-up boxing-manager father and a musically inclined mother who encouraged her son in his interests. His early years seem propelled by a desire to play the drums like nobody ever had, and his driving style provided a rhythmic backdrop for stars such as Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Coleman Hawkins, Peggy Lee, Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, and Barbra Streisand. Levey boxed professionally for a time before Parker introduced him to drugs; the latter eventually led to a two-year stint in prison, which Hayde handles without sensationalism. Levey was a fixture among the Big Apple beboppers and a prime mover on the West Coast scene and Hollywood sessions, and Haydes account of his exploits takes readers beyond jazz icons and celebrities into fascinating anecdotes, personal struggles, and a truly charmed life. Publishers Weekly "[A] fast-paced biography of the late great jazz drummer Stan Levey . . . This book takes the reader bouncing through Levey's life and times with a lively narrative by author Frank Hayde interspersed with quotes by Levey, his wife Angela, his family, and many luminaries of jazz such as Goodman, Gillespie, Quincy Jones, Lalo Schifrin, Jay McShann and many others. Levey's recollections, taken from various tapes, notes, and letters, push the book forward with their percussive style . . . Levey roomed with Bird for a while and takes verbal snapshots that are among the most vivid descriptions in print or film of the tragedy that was Bird. . . . This is a book about one of the most exciting times in the history of jazz when everyone in the country was trying to find his or her own way. A time of guts, glory, and turmoil of which Stan Levey was a prime representative. Hayde is a good writer and weaves all the stories into an exciting

single narrative." All About Jazz "a colorful and meticulously researched work . . . a welcome addition to jazz literature and scholarship Broad Street "one of the finest jazz biographies in recent years All About Jazz