



Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus

By Gene Santoro

Download now

Read Online 

Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus By Gene Santoro

Charles Mingus was one of the most innovative jazz musicians of the 20th century, and ranks with Charles Ives and Duke Ellington as one of America's greatest composers. By temperament, he was a high-strung and sensitive romantic, a towering figure whose tempestuous personal life found powerfully coherent expression in the ever-shifting textures of his music. Now, acclaimed music critic Gene Santoro strips away the myths shrouding "Jazz's Angry Man," revealing Mingus as more complex than even his close friends knew. Written in a lively, novelistic style, *Myself When I Am Real* draws on dozens of new interviews and previously untapped letters and archival materials to explore the intricate connections between this extraordinary man and the extraordinary music he made.

 [Download Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charl ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Cha ...pdf](#)

Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus

By Gene Santoro

Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus By Gene Santoro

Charles Mingus was one of the most innovative jazz musicians of the 20th century, and ranks with Charles Ives and Duke Ellington as one of America's greatest composers. By temperament, he was a high-strung and sensitive romantic, a towering figure whose tempestuous personal life found powerfully coherent expression in the ever-shifting textures of his music. Now, acclaimed music critic Gene Santoro strips away the myths shrouding "Jazz's Angry Man," revealing Mingus as more complex than even his close friends knew. Written in a lively, novelistic style, *Myself When I Am Real* draws on dozens of new interviews and previously untapped letters and archival materials to explore the intricate connections between this extraordinary man and the extraordinary music he made.

Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus By Gene Santoro Bibliography

- Rank: #1437479 in eBooks
- Published on: 2001-11-29
- Released on: 2000-07-20
- Format: Kindle eBook

 [Download Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charl ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Cha ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online *Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus* By Gene Santoro

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

In an art form known for its outrageous characters, Charles Mingus stood out. To paraphrase Walt Whitman, he was a man of "multitudes." He was a forceful, virtuosic bassist. He was an imaginative and original composer and arranger second only to Duke Ellington. He was also a social critic, bully, lady's man, father, and hypersensitive man-child who simply wanted to be appreciated for his work. Making sense of this larger-than-life personality presents an imposing challenge to any biographer. Enter Gene Santoro. The author of *Dancing in Your Head* and *Stir It Up: Musical Mixes from Roots to Jazz*, Santoro updates Brian Priestley's *Mingus: A Critical Biography*; separates the fact from the fiction of Mingus's rowdy autobiography, *Beneath the Underdog*; and produces the literary equivalent of a masterful Mingus composition, complete with labyrinthine surprises and complexities.

A light-skinned African American with Native American and Asian bloodlines who was born in 1922, Mingus endured a difficult childhood in Los Angeles, forever stung by the rampant racism that halted his dreams of a career in the classical music field. Undaunted, Mingus went on to work with several jazz giants, including Lionel Hampton, Dizzy Gillespie, and Duke Ellington, before creating his own record company (Debut) and composing over 300 iconoclastic compositions, including "Eclipse," "Haitian Fight Song," "Goodbye Porkpie Hat," "Cumbia and Jazz Fusion," and many other jazz standards. Santoro writes that the music "is overwhelming in its torrent of musical styles and psychological switchbacks and emotional punch, its tumble of raucous gospel swing, luminous melodies, European classical threads, bebop tributes, Mexican and Colombian and Indian music and sounds from anywhere and everywhere."

In addition to his keen insights into the music (including a thorough discography), Santoro deftly analyzes Mingus's mercurial personality. From the highs (his celebrated recordings *Blues & Roots* and *Mingus Ah Um*) to the lows (his horrible *Epitaph* concert, his eviction from his New York apartment, his numerous assaults on sidemen, and his slow death from Lou Gehrig's disease in 1979), Santoro fairly and faithfully lays bare the mind, body, soul, and art of an American original who influenced everyone from Wynton Marsalis to Joni Mitchell. "Mingus' music was autobiography in sound," Santoro writes. "Everyone in his life had a role. His portraits, his musical tributes, his insistence on forcing his sidemen to find themselves in what he imagined, his clamor for recognition, his emphasis on his originality ... these were more than stylistic trademarks. They were the essence of who he was." *Myself When I Am Real* captures this essence brilliantly. --Eugene Holley Jr.

From Publishers Weekly

Santoro, who covers music for New York's Daily News, has attempted not only to capture the complex, contradictory character of jazz bassist and composer Mingus, but also to assert his music's towering significance in American culture as a whole. With such an ambitious goal in mind, it is hard to understand why he dispenses with a critical approach to the man and his music in favor of hagiography, portraying Mingus as a larger-than-life genius who was beyond reproach. Misdeeds often attributed to Mingus, whether they be numerous betrayals of friends and lovers or an alarming tendency to pull knives on people, are explained away as the eccentricities of an artist. This rambling book is not without revealing details about Mingus's life, however. In the Watts section of Los Angeles, where he grew up, Mingus, with his light complexion, could pass for neither black nor white, which, Santoro argues, cemented the feeling of being an outsider that both haunted and drove the musician for the rest of his life. When writing about Mingus's actual musicmaking, Santoro is in his element. He does an admirable job of describing the rough-and-tumble

atmosphere of the jazz workshops. There is also an abundance of anecdotes about Mingus's legendary onstage hijinks, including smashing his bass (he did it before Pete Townshend), haranguing the audience and sitting down to a steak dinner in the middle of a performance. Yet Santoro ultimately fails to marshal his sources into a nuanced portrait, producing a mythological figure, not the man himself. (July)
Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Over the past few years, several exceptional biographies on key jazz artists such as Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, and Sun Ra have appeared. Santoro (music critic, the New York Daily News; *Dancing in Your Head*) has produced a work that belongs with this elite group. Mingus's super-human energy and creativity are the hinges of this work, which is filled out with numerous anecdotes and short, insightful quotes from family, friends, and colleagues. The historical setting is also valuable, showing how Mingus influenced and was affected by events and movements during his lifetime (e.g., the so-called 1960s counterculture). Other fascinating facets come to light, including Mingus's heritage (he had Native American, Chinese, black, and white ancestors). Mingus's opinionated, boisterous, and often mean-spirited personality was balanced by his desire to impart musical ideas and other thoughts to those willing to listen and learn. It's amazing that there were so few who ended up totally antagonized after the Mingus treatment. After reading this work, Mingus's fictionalized account of his life, *Beneath the Underdog* (Vintage, 1991. reprint), makes much more sense. Highly recommended for public, academic, and music libraries."William G. Kenz, Moorhead State Univ., MN
Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Timothy Rowe:

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information these days can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even restricted. What people must be consider any time those information which is from the former life are challenging to be find than now is taking seriously which one is suitable to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information we will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take *Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus* as your daily resource information.

Robert Qualls:

Are you kind of active person, only have 10 or even 15 minute in your moment to upgrading your mind skill or thinking skill perhaps analytical thinking? Then you have problem with the book when compared with can satisfy your short period of time to read it because all this time you only find guide that need more time to be examine. *Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus* can be your answer because it can be read by you actually who have those short free time problems.

Ernest Pettaway:

Reading a book to become new life style in this season; every people loves to go through a book. When you

learn a book you can get a great deal of benefit. When you read publications, you can improve your knowledge, mainly because book has a lot of information on it. The information that you will get depend on what sorts of book that you have read. If you wish to get information about your analysis, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself look for a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, along with soon. The *Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus* will give you a new experience in examining a book.

Richard Martinez:

In this age globalization it is important to someone to acquire information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information much easier to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You can observe that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. The actual book that recommended to you is *Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus* this book consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. This specific book was represented how do the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. The writer made some investigation when he makes this book. That's why this book suited all of you.

Download and Read Online *Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus* By Gene Santoro #CEQ8DKUVG97

Read Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus By Gene Santoro for online ebook

Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus By Gene Santoro Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus By Gene Santoro books to read online.

Online Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus By Gene Santoro ebook PDF download

Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus By Gene Santoro Doc

Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus By Gene Santoro Mobipocket

Myself When I Am Real: The Life and Music of Charles Mingus By Gene Santoro EPub