



All Hopped Up and Ready to Go: Music from the Streets of New York 1927-77

By Tony Fletcher

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A penetrating and entertaining exploration of New York's music scene from Cubop through folk, punk, and hip-hop.

From Tony Fletcher, the acclaimed biographer of Keith Moon, comes an incisive history of New York's seminal music scenes and their vast contributions to our culture. Fletcher paints a vibrant picture of mid-twentieth-century New York and the ways in which its indigenous art, theater, literature, and political movements converged to create such unique music.

With great attention to the colorful characters behind the sounds, from trumpet player Dizzy Gillespie to Tito Puente, Bob Dylan, and the Ramones, he takes us through bebop, the Latin music scene, the folk revival, glitter music, disco, punk, and hip-hop as they emerged from the neighborhood streets of Harlem, the East and West Village, Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Queens. All the while, Fletcher goes well beyond the history of the music to explain just what it was about these distinctive New York sounds that took the entire nation by storm. 33 photos

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All Hopped Up and Ready to Go: Music from the Streets of New York 1927-77 By Tony Fletcher **Bibliography**

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

From the Brill Building to CBGB, from Washington Square Park to the Apollo Theater, New York has been the birthplace and center of an astonishing variety of musical trends. In his richly detailed study of 50 years of the city's most important music history, music journalist Fletcher vividly recreates the birth and evolution of jazz, folk, pop, punk and hip-hop as the strains of these musical styles emerged from the urban cacophony of New York. Drawing on interviews and archives of well-known stories, Fletcher nimbly explores the ways that various musical styles benefit from and grow out of their contact with their surrounding cultures. For example, the music scene of the Lower East Side was a direct product of the area's thriving movements in poetry, filmmaking, avant-garde music and experimental theater. Fletcher chronicles the beginnings of the folk movement in the sing-alongs in Washington Square Park and the opening of the Folklore Center on MacDougal Street in 1957, where musicians could hold hootenannies. Fletcher observes the folk scene on the wane as John Sebastian leaves Jim Kweskin's Jug Band and teams with Canadian Zal Yanovsky, formerly of the Mugwumps (which became the Mamas and the Papas), to form the rock band the Lovin' Spoonful, and provides one of the best brief histories of CBGB. Fletcher's terrific music history captures the teeming life of New York's thriving music scene. (*Oct.*)

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Review

"Fletcher's commentary melds very different cultures to shows interrelationships and how new genres built upon the foundations of predecessors... Anyone interested in popular music and the rich cultural heritage of New York?indeed, of all of the U.S.?should read this book." (Booklist)

"Like Alastair Cooke's *America*, *All Hopped Up* is an unapologetically opinionated overview of zeitgeists that sparked their own theme music.... An indispensable reference book for college students and a survival guide for modern musicians." (Chronogram)

"In *All Hopped Up and Ready To Go: Music from the Streets of New York 1927-77*, Tony Fletcher has demonstrated extraordinary depth in his research and vibrancy in his writing. Not only was I fascinated by his stories of times and styles about which I knew little, but, in those areas in which I knew a lot, he has connected all the dots for me...oh, yeah, and it's a damned good read." (Mike Stoller)

"Thoroughly researched, engaging, and perceptive." (Library Journal)

"In his richly detailed study of fifty years of the city's most important musical history, music journalist Fletcher vividly recreates the birth and evolution of jazz, folk, pop, punk and hip-hop as the strains of these urban styles emerged from the urban cacophony of New York." (Publishers Weekly)

"Fletcher tells the story well.... His gift is enthusiasm." (The New York Times Book Review)

About the Author

Tony Fletcher is the author of six non-fiction books and one novel. His biography of drummer Keith Moon has been named in many a Best Music Book list; his biography of R.E.M., 'Remarks Remade,' has been published in over half a dozen countries; and history of the NYC music scene, 'All Hopped Up and Ready To Go: Music from the Streets of New York, 1927-77,' was widely and positively received upon publication in

2009. His latest biography, 'A Light That Never Goes Out: The Enduring Saga of The Smiths,' was published in the UK by William Heinemann on September 6 2012, and will be published by Crown Archetype in the USA on December 4. A memoir of his South London schooldays, 'Boy About Town,' will be published by William Heinemann in July 2013. He lives with his family in the Catskill Mountains.

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