

Fletch Henderson, the uncrowned king of swing.

While performers and composers get their due in popular jazz histories, the jazz arranger remains a more obscure figure. Magee Booker, an associate musicology professor at Indiana University, attempts to redress this slight in his scholarly look at the work of Fletcher Henderson (1897-1952).

More a "portrait of a musical collaboration" than a biography, Booker's narrative travels from Henderson's years as a bandleader during the Harlem Renaissance through his stint as Benny Goodman's arranger, highlighting the musical idiosyncrasies of what became known as the "Hendersonese." While Benny Goodman is lauded as the major force behind the Big Band sound, Booker argues convincingly that Henderson was equally important in "building the kingdom of swing." This is the book that will finally bring Henderson out of the shadows.

"Excellent."

—*The New York Times*

"The uncrowned King of Swing is the definitive biography of this musical legend. Booker's argument is well laid out and his writing style is inviting."

—*Popular Music and Society*

"Booker has written an important book, illuminating an era too often reduced to its most familiar names. Goodman might have been the King of Swing, but Henderson here merges as that kingdom's chief architect, an innovative musician who played a crucial role in building music."

—*Boston Globe*

Fletcher Henderson: UNDER THE HARLEM MOON

Maggie Booker

Lightswitch Publishing

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