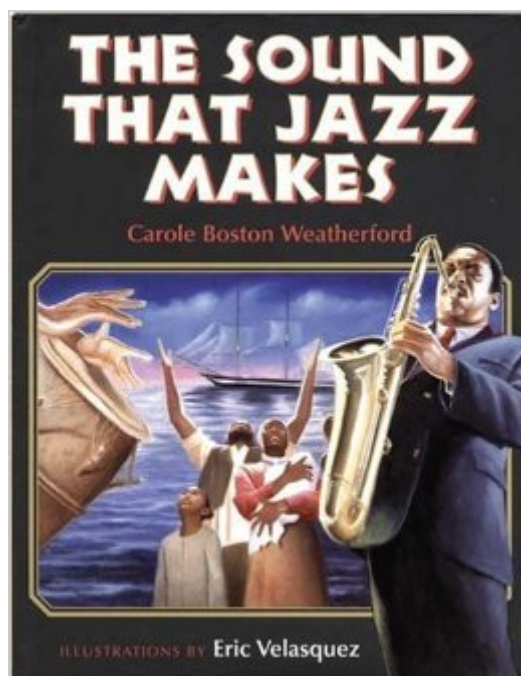


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# The Sound That Jazz Makes



## Synopsis

A symphony of sound and color, *The Sound That Jazz Makes* is an eloquently rendered celebration of a remarkable heritage. Author Carole Boston Weatherford's lyrical stanzas combine with the power of luminous oil paintings by Coretta Scott King New Talent winner, Eric Velasquez (*The Piano Man*) to trace the development of jazz. From African forests to wooden slave ships to Harlem nightclubs, the tragic and joyous legacy of the African-American experience gives jazz its passion and spirit.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Walker Childrens (May 30, 2000)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 0.2 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (32 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,854,946 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #68 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Jazz](#) #165 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > History](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book is excellent and captures children's imaginations. I used this book to enhance my Jazz History/Improvisation unit and the students couldn't stop asking me question about it. They all wanted to know if it was in the library. It provides a short, rhythmic, simplistic story of the journey of jazz from Africa to today. A definite MUST HAVE!

"This is Africa where rhythm abounds/and music springs from nature sounds,/played on a drum carved from a tree/that grew in a forest of ebony." From the African jungle and slave ships, to Harlem, New Orleans, and even today's rappers, Carole Boston Weatherford introduces the sound that jazz makes. Her lyrical and engaging rhyming text is full of energy, motion, and passion, and beautifully complemented by award winning illustrator, Eric Velzsquez's vibrant and expressive oil paintings. Together they've authored a powerful and evocative feast for the ears and eyes that traces the roots and development of this unique and totally American musical art form. Perfect for

youngsters 4-8, "JAZZ is a downbeat born in our nation,/chords of struggle and jubilation,/bursting forth from hearts set free/in notes that echo history./This is the sound that jazz makes!"

I admire Carole Boston Weatherford's writing and her choice of subject matter. She does well here tracing the roots of jazz and its offshoots such as gospel and rap. She does well in introducing the giants of jazz such as Satchmo, Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Ella Fitzgerald and Lady Holiday to her readers. I do hope the author considers beginning to reach out to older readers as her audience matures. She is doing a great service to her subject matter and to her young readers and I hope she continues for a long while.

This is lovely book told in a circular format about the history of Jazz. It begins with people from Africa and their musical history, the slave trade and the continuance of their culture through song and music. As freedom loomed the music developed into ragtime and finally Jazz. I thought the poetry was on target and engaging, the illustrations were perfect for the subject matter and meaningful for the text. I felt moved by the book and it ends with rap, a very important music for today's youth. Inspired book which knows what it is talking about.

Deft, strong hand tapped the rhythm of the sounds of nature around him. The zebras flew like the wind as African cranes glided over the grass huts. The beat moved on. "This is a kalimba chiming for rain / while a high priest chants the same refrain. / These are the dancers who leap and spin / wearing grass skirts and leopard skin." The slave ships came and the chains captured the beat that would live on in those hands, in those heads, and in their hearts. The harbor would be the home of the auctions where man and woman stood on blocks to be sold. The voices of those slaves came once again to life in the fields, singing and passing messages "through secret codes." Slaves ran toward freedom, but raised their arms high to sing and talk to the Lord. "This is the banjo the farmer plucked / after the corn was picked and shucked / while a young boy clacked a pair of spoons / and folks danced jigs beneath the moon." The song and dance kept moving to the beat of a stride piano in a honky tonk. The music was moving, but just where would it find a home and what would it become? This is a fascinating tale of the origins and history of jazz. It's not a tale that is outlined in a nonfiction manner, but one expressed in a poetic manner accompanied by the music of Eric Velasquez's amazingly expressive artwork rendered in oil. This book has won several awards, including the Carter G. Woodson Book Award. The verse seamlessly moves us from a lone drum in Africa to the sounds of a boombox with a break dancer expressing the beat. The book has been

reprinted from the year 2000 edition, but the theme is timeless. Books by Carole Boston Weatherford: Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom (Caldecott Honor Book) Oprah: The Little Speaker Before John Was a Jazz Giant: A Song of John Coltrane Jesse Owens: Fastest Man Alive Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins The Beatitudes: From Slavery to Civil Rights The Sound That Jazz Makes Michelle Obama: First Mom Birmingham, 1963

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