



# Drummin' Men--The Heartbeat of Jazz: The Bebop Years

*Burt Korall*

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## **Drummin' Men--The Heartbeat of Jazz: The Bebop Years** Burt Korall

Burt Korall is widely recognized as the most authoritative writer on jazz drumming. His first book *Drummin' Men--The Heartbeat of Jazz: The Swing Era* is considered a classic. It was praised by Nat Hentoff as "a book that illuminates not only the pantheon of jazz drummers in classic jazz, but makes clear the very essence of the jazz spirit." Now, in this exciting sequel, Korall offers a richly informative history of drumming in the Bebop era.

Bebop--hard driving, discordant, melodically unconventional--introduced new sounds and innovative rhythms that changed the face of jazz. Korall looks at this music through the eyes of the musicians themselves, covering a whole range of important jazz drummers, but focusing upon the most original and significant--principally Kenny Clarke, Max Roach, and Art Blakey. Korall provides a knowledgeable background about the history of bebop--and the unfortunate and almost universal heroin addiction that swept through the jazz world in the wake of Charlie Parker's habit. The book contains Korall's own memoir of nearly 50 years in the jazz world, linked by his narrative of the careers of these drummers and their place in the bebop jazz scene. But the most remarkable aspect of the book is the oral history that weaves together the stories of the drummers themselves as well as their friends and contemporaries.

This is one of the most readable jazz histories in recent years, as well as one of the most authoritative and significant. It takes readers inside the heads of the men who drove the beat, to convey the excitement and originality of the bebop era.

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