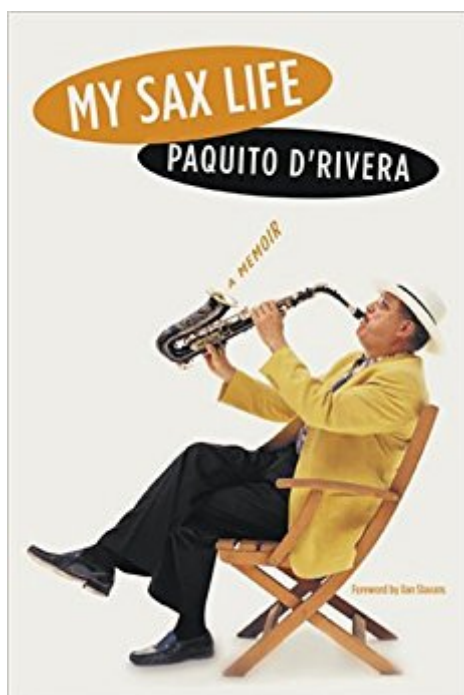


The book was found

My Sax Life: A Memoir (Latino Voices/Vidas)



Synopsis

Winner of 2005 Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Composition Winner of 2005 National Medal of Arts My Sax Life is the award-winning memoir of famed Cuban musician Paquito D'Rivera. A best-selling artist with more than thirty solo albums to his credit, D'Rivera has performed at the White House and the Blue Note, and with orchestras, jazz ensembles, and chamber groups around the world. Propelled by jazz-fueled high spirits, D'Rivera's story soars and spins from memory to memory in a collage of his remarkable life. D'Rivera recalls his early nightclub appearances as a child, performing with clowns and exotic dancers, as well as his search for artistic freedom in communist Cuba and his hungry explorations of world music after his defection. Opinionated but always good-humored, My Sax Life is a fascinating statement on art and the artist's life.

Book Information

Series: Latino Voices/Vidas

Hardcover: 400 pages

Publisher: Northwestern University Press; 1 edition (November 17, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0810122189

ISBN-13: 978-0810122185

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.3 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,220,384 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Ethnic & International > Salsa #234 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Hispanic & Latino #392 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Biographies > Jazz

Customer Reviews

Writing with his Cuban heart on his sleeve, the legendary reed player and composer of jazz and traditional Cuban music is passionate as he discusses everything from the importance of learning to read music to cellist Yo-Yo Ma's thoughts on communism. The narrative moves quickly as D'Rivera (b. 1948) bops back and forth between his life as a musical prodigy in Cuba, stories of musical greats like Celia Cruz and Tito Puente, and his international travels. And while most of the book is upbeat and humorous, the passages where D'Rivera recalls his 1981 defection from Cuba and the

people he left behind are especially poignant. D’Rivera is openly critical of Castro’s beliefs and actions, what he sees as the faults of communism, the political systems of Latin America and any government that strives to curb artistic freedom and expression. He liberally inserts quotations, letters and extended passages written by friends, acquaintances and fellow musicians to add different perspectives on his own stories (which often seem to set the record straight). D’Rivera’s knowledge of music and recording is readily apparent, but his penchant for naming everyone he ever played with can become tedious. Still, D’Rivera’s writing – like his music – is infused with zest. B&w photos. (Nov.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"Mr. D’Rivera is a formidable musician. . ." --New York Times
"Paquito D’Rivera has a foot in the classical world and a foot in the jazz world-and each foot is atop its respective world. . ."

--Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel
"Paquito D’Rivera is one of the woodwind giants of our time. . ." --Jazz Times

This book is an autobiography of the great musician Paquito D’Rivera. Paquito describes the many obstacles that he has endured and how he survived using the knowledge and love that he was given from his parents, the help of friends and the support from his wonderful wife Brenda. This is a very well written book that I highly recommend reading. Tony Marino

A Cuban musician’s day-to-day struggle may be appreciated in the reading of *My Sax Life*, a compilation of the memoirs of Paquito D’Rivera, a Cuban-born, Grammy winning jazz saxophonist and clarinetist who defected from Cuba in 1980. Paquito talks of Castro’s censure which suppressed British and American influences in Cuban music. The censure prevented Cuban musicians from playing anything resembling jazz or rock and roll during a period of several years during the 60’s and 70’s, depending on the Cuban tyrant’s whims. Various stories throughout the book tell of a musician’s search for artistic freedom and expression under the tight grip of Castro’s police state censors, while struggling on in the daily life of a typical Cuban in search of consumer goods. Paquito also tells of Cuba’s restrictions of travel on suspected dissidents that could potentially defect. D’Rivera’s knowledge of music is apparent and his ability to name everybody he ever played with is impressive. Although his writing is somewhat hard to follow, it is infused with zest and good humor and it is a statement by an artist on his art and his life.

Paquito d’Rivera is an undisputed virtuoso on saxophone and clarinet in both the jazz and classical worlds. One of the great innovators of Latin jazz in modern times, Paquito has always been at the forefront of the movement. Unless you are familiar with his random writings in numerous publications, most people were unaware of Paquito’s talent of prose in Spanish and English. After penning his novel, Oh, La Habana! and the Spanish version of his memoirs, he has now released his memoirs in English or his anti-biography as he prefers to call it. Much like his lyrical improvisational style, Paquito d’Rivera’s book is filled with his trademark humor and wit, bounces between decades here and abroad and includes personal antidotes and stories as well as those of his closest friends and collaborators. Destined to becoming one of the great jazz memoirs of all time, and definitely a must read for this year’s music book releases, My Sax Life is highly recommended.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

My Sax Life: A Memoir (Latino Voices/Vidas) George Lopez: Latino King of Comedy (Latino Biography Library) Music Minus One - Trumpet, Tenor Sax, Clarinet, Alto Sax or Trombone: Twelve More Classic Jazz Standards, Vol. 2 (Book and 2 CD Set) 14 Blues & Funk Etudes: B-flat Instrument (Tenor Sax, Soprano Sax, Clarinet), Book & 2 CDs Accent on Christmas and Holiday Ensembles: Eb Alto Sax / Baritone Sax (Accent on Achievement) Accent on Ensembles, Bk 1: E-flat Alto Sax, Baritone Sax (Accent on Achievement) 14 Jazz & Funk Etudes: B-flat Instrument (Tenor Sax, Soprano Sax, Clarinet), Book & CD CONCERT SUITE ALTO SAX/PIANO FOR E ALTO SAX & BAND & PIANO REDUCTION Easy Jazz Favorites - Tenor Sax 2 Tenor Sax 2 24 INFANTAS DE ESPAÑA: Sus vidas, entre las ilusiones y el destino (Biografías Históricas nº 6) (Spanish Edition) The Book of Latina Women: 150 Vidas of Passion, Strength, and Success Voices of Lung Cancer: The Healing Companion: Stories for Courage, Comfort and Strength (Voices Of series) Elijah: An Oratorio for Full Chorus of Mixed Voices, Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Baritone Soli (Double Solo Quartet of Mixed Voices) and Piano (G. Schirmer’s Editions of Oratorios and Cantatas) Hearing Voices, Living Fully: Living with the Voices in My Head Voices from Colonial America: New York 1609-1776 (National Geographic Voices from ColonialAmerica) Voices from Colonial America: Texas 1527-1836: 1527 - 1836 (National Geographic Voices from ColonialAmerica) Voices from Colonial America: Massachusetts 1620-1776: 1620 - 1776 (National Geographic Voices from ColonialAmerica) Voices from Colonial America: Louisiana, 1682-1803 (National Geographic Voices from ColonialAmerica) Voices from Colonial America: New Jersey: 1609-1776 (National Geographic Voices from ColonialAmerica) Voices from Colonial America: North Carolina 1524-1776 (National Geographic Voices from ColonialAmerica)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)