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# Introducing Gershwin; Introducing Mozart

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Gershwin was the American Musician *par excellence*, pulling together as he did for the first time the diverse strands of jazz, ragtime, European folk and Western 'classical' musics to form his own utterly American style.

Here, well embedded into the context of his times, is a very full account of the whole man from his Tin Pan Alley beginnings to his tragically early death, from his early friendship with Astaire to his later devotion to Schoenberg. Perhaps the best appreciation of Gershwin comes from listening to his own stiff-fingered strutting recordings of his piano pieces but this book is a valuable corollary.

As any Horse of the Year will tell you, Mozart wrote some damn good tunes too, and his story is oddly parallel to Gershwin's - what a formidable duo they'd have been. What Vernon has done for one, he has done for the other in a book which allows us to realise that no study of Wolfgang will be the same after **Amadeus**.

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