

# WHO HEARS HERE?

ON BLACK MUSIC, PAST & PRESENT

Guthrie P. Ramsey, Jr., is an award-winning musicologist, music historian, composer, and pianist whose prescient theoretical and critical interventions have bridged Black cultural studies and musicology. Representing twenty-five years of commentary and scholarship, these essays document Ramsey's search to understand America's Black musical past and present and to find his own voice as an African American writer in the field of musicology. This far-reaching collection embraces historiography, ethnography, cultural criticism, musical analysis, and autobiography, traversing the landscape of Black musical expression from sacred music to art music, and jazz to hip-hop. Taken together, these essays and the provocative introduction that precedes them are testament to the legacy work that has come to define a field, as well as a rousing call to readers to continue to ask the hard questions and write the hard truths.

"The essays gathered here provide evidence of what many of us have long known: Guthrie Ramsey is one of our most important scholars of Black music."

—Farah Jasmine Griffin

author of *Read Until You Understand:*

*The Profound Wisdom of Black Life and Literature*

"Dr. Ramsey is uniquely positioned as the brilliant musician and scholar who can translate sound for us. Our music is lucky to have his ear and mind locate the metaphors that only show their face in a sound wave. I hear!"

—Jason Moran

Artistic Director for Jazz, the Kennedy Center

"Guthrie Ramsey's gift is in his sweep. He not only provides stunning insights into our country's biggest debates about race, history, and American music, but he makes the case, point by point, page by brilliant page, of a Black critical tradition in musicology, and far beyond."

—Salamishah Tillet

activist, scholar, and

winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Criticism

"Ramsey's theoretical and critical interventions have not lost their edge. Reading these essays again, I am struck by how far ahead of his time he was when he first published them. They are just as insightful and pertinent as they were when they first appeared."

—Susan McClary

Fynette H. Kulas Professor of Music, Case Western

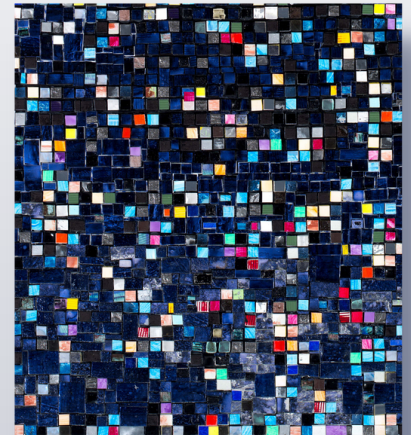
Reserve University

"Ramsey is keenly aware of, and able to articulate, how the stories we draw from our research are always about both our subjects and ourselves—and cannot be otherwise. That remarkable quality is on vivid display in this collection of articles and essays across three decades."

—Jeffrey Magee

author of *The Uncrowned King of Swing: Fletcher*

*Henderson and Big Band Jazz*



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A Guggenheim Fellow and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Guthrie P. Ramsey, Jr. is a prize-winning music historian, pianist, composer. He is Professor Emeritus of Music at the University of Pennsylvania.

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