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**Life in E Flat - The Autobiography of Phil Woods**

*New memoir by the legendary saxophonist, composer, Grammy Award winner, and NEA Jazz Master*

Torrance, CA – October 1, 2020

Cymbal Press is proud to announce the publication of *Life in E Flat - The Autobiography of Phil Woods*. This autobiography, decades in the making, is the candid memoir of one of the world's most accomplished and highly regarded jazz artists. *Life in E Flat* is the unvarnished self-portrait of an artist who loved and lived a life of bebop. (Written by Phil Woods with Ted Panken)

"Phil Woods lived all the tropes of the 20th century American artist: defiant modernist, reverent traditionalist, mid-century family man, countercultural nonconformist, homebody, expatriate and road rat; young Turk and grand master. His story tracks the changes of "this old world" through over three quarters of a century of music and life, informing us of what has been gained and lost, reminding us of what happened and what still needs to be done."

**- Brian Lynch, Grammy Award-winning trumpeter, composer, and educator**

"I would have to give Phil Woods' sax solo on "Just The Way You" Are credit for making that a hit record."

**- Billy Joel**

"Life in E-flat is a gift, a compelling and entertaining memoir by one of the leading alto saxophonists in jazz for 60 years. Woods is a charismatic storyteller — literate, funny, insightful, self-aware, with a keen eye and ear for details that reveal character and wise observations about the music business and the jazz life laced with sardonic wit."

**- Mark Stryker, author of Jazz From Detroit**

"Someone spotted me fondling the saxophone and misinterpreted my avaricious intent as musical interest..." So Phil Wood's lifelong journey began—a saga he relates with an irreverent, self-deprecating wit, from his earliest days in Western Massachusetts to recording timeless music and traveling the world with jazz legends. Time and again, he sets up a story like a punchline's coming, and often they do. What you always get is history rich in detail and long in feeling and self-honesty — the personal stumbles and the musical triumphs. Phil left us in 2015; this book he left us is a gift that shows how so much of him is still here."

**- Ashley Kahn, music historian and author**

**About Phil Woods**

Phil Woods (1931-2015) was an American original. One of the greatest saxophonists of all time, he was the first call for Quincy Jones, Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk, and Oliver Nelson. His iconic improvisation on Billy Joel's record, "Just the Way You Are," is quite likely the most played instrumental solo in the world. He also recorded dozens of albums as a leader and sideman. Phil Woods' popularity soared while an expat in Europe during the cultural revolution of the late sixties and early seventies. Upon his return to the States, Woods formed a band that would perform together for four decades. Grammy Awards, dozens of DownBeat Readers Poll victories, and designation as a National Endowment of the Arts Jazz Master would follow.

## About Ted Panken

Ted Panken writes extensively about jazz and creative music for various publications, including *DownBeat*, *Jazziz*, and *Jazz Times*. He programmed jazz and creative music on WKCR-FM in New York City from 1985 through 2008, and has conducted numerous public interviews for the National Jazz Museum in Harlem and at various international jazz festivals. He won the 2007 ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for his article "Smalls Universe," published by *DownBeat*, and earned the Jazz Journalists' Association 2016 Lifetime Achievement in Jazz Journalism award. His blog, *Today Is The Question*, contains over 290 of his articles and verbatim interviews. [tedpanken.wordpress.com](http://tedpanken.wordpress.com)

## About Cymbal Press

Cymbal Press is an imprint of Constructing Modern Knowledge Press specializing in books about the arts and artists. CMK Press is an independent publisher of influential books by creative educators for creative educators with more than a dozen titles published in eight languages.

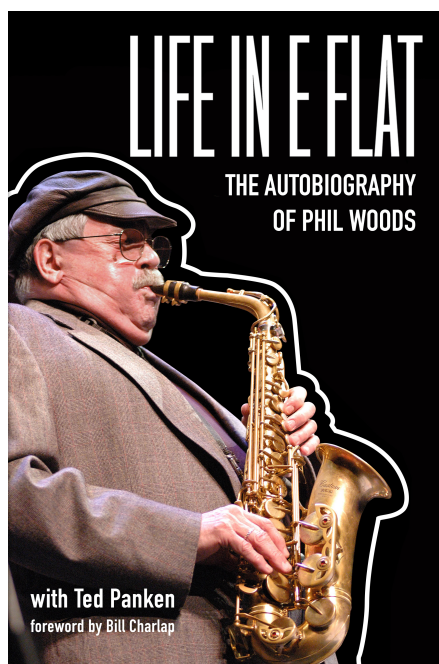
***Life in E Flat - The Autobiography of Phil Woods*** with Ted Panken; foreword by Bill Charlap; essay by Brian Lynch

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I would have to give Phil Woods' sax solo on "Just the Way You Are" credit for making that a hit record.  
— Billy Joel

Mr. Phil Woods left an indelible impression on me as a composer, arranger, and instrumentalist. A sincere active transmitter on the stage! — Eddie Palmieri, ten-time Grammy Award winner and NEA Jazz Master

*Life in E Flat* is a gift, a compelling and entertaining memoir by one of the leading alto saxophonists in jazz for 60 years. Woods is a charismatic storyteller—literate, funny, insightful, self-aware, with a keen eye and ear for details that reveal character and wise observations about the music business and the jazz life lived with sardonic wit.  
— Mark Stryker, author of *Jazz From Detroit*

Phil Woods was a wonderful alto player, a great musician that was at home in any musical situation. His autobiography is a must-read for all jazz fans and musicians alike. — Charles McPherson, saxophonist and composer

"Someone spotted me fondling the saxophone and misinterpreted my avocetous intent as musical interest. . . ." So Phil Wood's lifelong journey began—a saga he relates with an irreverent, self-deprecating wit, from his earliest days in Western Massachusetts to recording timeless music and traveling the world with jazz legends. Time and again, he sets up a story like a punchline's coming, and often they do. What you always get to history rich in detail and tinged in feeling and self-honesty—the personal stumbles and the musical triumphs. Phil left us in 2015; this book he left us is a gift that shows how so much of him is still here. — Ashley Kahn, music historian and author

I never worked with a better musician at the same time so unpretentious about the depth, breadth, and total scope of his knowledge and his playing. You hear his unmistakable voice in both his alto saxophone and every note of his very much underrated writing. Phil Woods was a supreme singer and swinger of the music he loved and served so passionately. Equally jazz and man. — Todd Barkan, Keystone Korner, Baltimore and NEA Jazz Master

Phil was in a class of his own . . . musically of course. But he also had an ear for language . . . caustic at times, but always honest and heartfelt. . . truly one of a kind! — Dave Liebman, NEA Jazz Master

Phil Woods's voice on the page is as raw and lyrical and unmistakable as the sound of his alto. If you want to really know about *The Life*—the true day-to-day of a working jazz musician, with all its agonies and ecstasies and tedium and the ever-exciting challenge of getting paid something like what you're worth for playing your heart out—look no further. *Life in E Flat* pulls no punches and tells no lies.

— James Kaplan, author of *Shoah*, *The Chairman*, *Frank*, *The Voice*, and *Irving Berlin*, *New York Genius*



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