

This comprehensive and insightful study of a major music master fills a yawning gap in the writing on Detroit's jazz scene in its heyday. Even within a constellation of huge talents, Pepper Adams shone with his own distinctive light.

– Mark Slobin

*Author of Motor City Music: A Detroiter Looks Back*

Pepper Adams was a heartbreakingly great musician who never got the love from the jazz press that he deserved, which, in a way, makes him even more important in the history of the music because it represents an experience that happens all too often and places Pepper firmly at the heart of the jazz life. As Johnny Griffin once said, "Jazz is music made by and for people who have chosen to feel good in spite of conditions." But to limit Pepper to the jazz life would be a mistake. He was a man of literature and culture, a great reader and thinker, as were many of his heroes, notably Charlie Parker, and Gary Carner's loving tribute to him finally delivers some justice to the man and to the whole range and span of his too short and underappreciated but brilliant career.

– Ben Sidran

*Author of Black Talk and Jews, Music and the American Dream*