

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*

Gary Carner's biography about Pepper Adams honors one of America's great musicians. It is a joy to read and reread, and worth waiting for all these years. Having known and worked with Pepper from 1955 until he left us, reading this biography makes you feel that you are there with him. His humor, wit and devotion to music are all written about in a way that Pepper himself would have loved. Gary Carner has kept this story real.

– David Amram
Composer and conductor; Author of *Vibrations: The Adventures and Musical Times of David Amram*

Reflectory: The Life and Music of Pepper Adams is het overtuigende portret van een ernstig onderschatte jazzgrootheid. Gary Carner's indrukwekkende levenswerk (decennialange research, inclusief 250 interviews) heeft geresulteerd in een uitgebreide biografie die fascinerende lectuur vormt.

Reflectory: The Life and Music of Pepper Adams is the persuasive portrait of a seriously underrated jazz giant. Gary Carner's impressive work of a lifetime (decades of research, including 250 interviews) has resulted in an extensive biography that makes for fascinating reading.

– Bert Vuijsje
Co-author of *Rita Reys: Lady Jazz* and *Ado Broodboom Trompet*

Før læsningen havde jeg, ligesom mange andre, kun et sporadisk kendskab til Pepper Adams. Dette skyldes måske at hans hovedinstrument var baryton-saxen, der som dybt-klingende ofte har stået i skyggen af de andre saxofoner. Efter nu at have lyttet mere indgående til hans musik, er jeg blevet overbevist om den status han i bogen bliver givet: en jazz improvisator i den øverste liga; en person, der i lighed med musikere som Bud Powell, Wardell Gray, Fats Navarro og J. J. Johnson formåede at få Charlie Parkers musikalske sprog til at blomstre på deres eget instrument uden uden at fremstå som epigoner.

Before reading, like many others I had only a sporadic knowledge of Pepper Adams. This is perhaps due to his main instrument being a baritone sax, which, as deep-sounding, often has been overshadowed by the other saxophones. Having now listened more in depth to his music, I have become convinced of the status he is given in the book: a jazz musician and improviser in the top league; a man who, like musicians such as Bud Powell, Wardell Gray, Fats Navarro and J. J. Johnson, managed to get Charlie Parker's musical language to blossom on their own instrument without being epigones.

– Leif Bo Petersen

Co-author of *The Music and Life of Theodore "Fats" Navarro: Infatuation*