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The Ghetto Swinger: A Berlin Jazz-Legend Remembers

Coco Schumann
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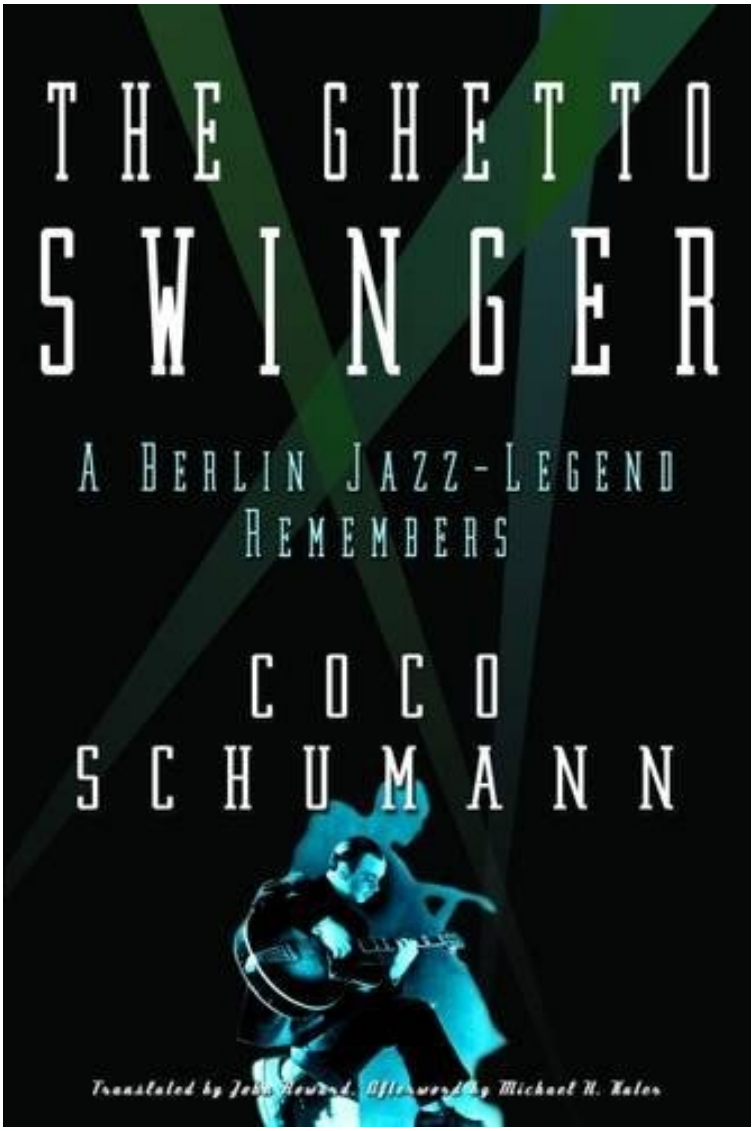

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Coco Schumann : The Ghetto Swinger: A Berlin Jazz-Legend Remembers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ghetto Swinger: A Berlin Jazz-Legend Remembers:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding!By Kallio MerviSo many wise words and so positive perspect to everything even after so difficult circumstances. Love of music comes through all and helps every time.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The story of how he began playing at the age of 13 and how he survived the concentration camps was scary as well as amazing. HeBy Diane K.This is a translation of Coco Schumann's, a Jazz guitar player during the early days of Jazz and Swing, autobiography. It was an interesting time in

Berlin not only was this type of music starting to take hold so were the Nazi's.I found Mr. Schumann's story so very interesting although there were parts that kind of drug for me just because I did not know any of the musicians that he mentions. The story of how he began playing at the age of 13 and how he survived the concentration camps was scary as well as amazing. He also tells of the lasting effects those years had on him.

Jazz in Nazi-era and postwar Germany, as lived by a Jewish prodigy who survived the horrors of Theresienstadt and Auschwitz.

From his early enthusiasm for American jazz in Berlin cabarets to his membership of Terezin's celebrated Ghetto Swingers and surviving Auschwitz through his music, to post-war appearances with the likes of Dizzy Gillespie, jazz remains a constant in a remarkable life story. [...] Illustrated by a fascinating range of photographs. (Ron Simpson The Jazz Rag (Manchester))Considered the first ever jazz electric guitarist in Germany, [Coco Schumann] played swing for years but was versatile enough to perform in much more commercial settings during the lean periods. He kept his memories of the prison camps mostly to himself for four decades. The Ghetto Swinger has Coco Schumann telling his story honestly, colorfully and with occasional humor. It is a fascinating [book] that is well worth discovering. (Scott Yanow L.A. Jazz Scene)It is rare and beautiful that someone can play with such sadness -- and with such musical humor.The recently published, never-before translated book by "Coco" Schumann traces his journey from Berlin's pre-war nightlife to a band in Auschwitz and back to Berlin -- and doesnt miss a beat. [...] Look for this unusual book. (Rochel Sylvetsky Israel National News)From the Inside FlapCoco Schumann's career as a jazz and swing musician spans more than seventy years and is replete with honors. But for decades Schumann bore his wartime experiences as a Holocaust survivor in silence, with only the pleasure of composing music and performing for live audiences to ease the burden of his most haunting memories. In his memoir, Schumann recounts the vibrant underground club scenes of Berlin in the years surrounding World War II as well as providing backstage glimpses into Berlin's famous nightlife, where he shared the stage with such jazz notables as Helmut Zacharias, Tullio Mobiglia, Toots Thielemans, and American greats Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie and Ella Fitzgerald. At the same time, The Ghetto Swinger offers Schumann's harrowing testimony from 1943-1945 about daily life inside Theresienstadt (Terezin) and Auschwitz, and provides readers with the important perspective of a Jewish Holocaust survivor who remained in Germany after the war. In his home country, Schumann is a celebrated personality. But until now, his life story hasn't been accessible to English-speaking audiences. Featuring rare photographs and an Afterword by Weimar- and Nazi-era culture scholar Michael H. Kater, The Ghetto Swinger is an engrossing historical document as much as it is a heartwarming memoir. 50+ historical documents and rare photographs. SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2017 ARSC AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN HISTORICAL SOUND RESEARCH, JAZZ CATEGORY.About the AuthorCOCO SCHUMANN was born in Berlin in 1924. He has spent his lifetime playing jazz and swing and is known as one of the genres best musicians in Europe. Several times named the foremost jazz guitarist in Germany, Schumann appeared throughout his life in well-known swing bands and alongside jazz notables like Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Toots Thielemans, and Louis Armstrong. Schumann led his own quartet, has been a composer and arranger, briefly opened up his own Berlin bar in the 1970s, and taught music at Berlins prestigious music conservatory in Steglitz-Zehlendorf. His latest song collection appeared in 2014, and until his retirement later that year at 90 years old, Schumann was playing regularly in Berlin for packed crowds. Recipient of the Order of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany in 1989 and the Berlin Order of Merit in 2008, Schumann received the prestigious Ehrenpreise Lifetime Achievement Award from the German Record Critics in 2015.