

FOREWORD

Art has to do with the inner emotions of the person who is presenting it. An artist must be capable of giving vent to his or her feelings; nothing reaches the point of being artistic until it touches the soul.

There are so many artists who interpret the jazz language. Musicians, of course, and painters, sculptors, and poets too. The colors, the structures, the stories they tell share a certain power of expression. One splash of a Chagall can sound like Bird. And Picasso, he was a swinger. You can recognize any figure he drew because it automatically swings, just like Dizzy.

An artistic person can express himself in a number of ways. Pops [Louis Armstrong] used to say that anyone who could play a horn could sing, because the language of jazz could be spoken the same way with the voice as with an instrument. Duke Ellington said that he would never hire a musician who couldn't dance, because he wanted players who understood rhythm and could "make a phrase dance." I know many musicians who paint, many people who can look at an object and see the music in it, or listen to music and hear its

colors. When I read poetry by someone like Langston Hughes, I hear the beat and imagine the words as a song. All forms of creativity in jazz—all of the music, all of the words and images in this book—are about having something to express, something artistic to say, however one chooses to say it.

My own inspiration comes from beautiful people that I meet and work with and from beautiful music that I have the opportunity to play. I think about how marvelous it has been for me to have known the people who created the music: people like Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie, and Dizzy Gillespie, just to name a few. To be able to perpetuate the craft that these people started is a blessing and an inspiration.

Musicians are also inspired by their audiences. You can sense when you have an audience that is mature and hip about jazz. It's wonderful to invite people into this enjoyable world, to open their eyes and their minds, to show them where they can find some satisfaction, some happiness, some beauty they didn't have before. Welcome inside the sphere of jazz.

Clark Terry