



**SOMETHING *to* LIVE FOR**

***The* MUSIC of BILLY STRAYHORN**

**WALTER *van de* LEUR**

Advance acclaim for

**SOMETHING to LIVE FOR**

**The MUSIC of BILLY STRAYHORN**

“An epochal work—groundbreaking, fearless, sensitive, and exquisitely modulated, much like the music it illuminates. *Something to Live For* is the best possible book about Billy Strayhorn’s art and a highwater mark of music scholarship.”

—David Hajdu,  
author of *Lush Life: A Biography of Billy Strayhorn*

“For lovers of Ellingtonia, jazz, and twentieth-century music, Walter van de Leur’s new book is indeed *Something to Live For*. The first in-depth study of the music of composer-arranger Billy Strayhorn, this volume is meticulously researched, clearly written, and enriched with excerpts from Strayhorn’s autograph scores. For the first time, we can learn the details of Strayhorn’s monumental 28-year contribution to the Duke Ellington Orchestra and music he wrote for other contexts. *Something to Live For: The Music of Billy Strayhorn* sets a new standard of excellence for jazz musicology.”

—Bill Kirchner,  
Composer-arranger, saxophonist, jazz historian, producer, educator,  
and editor of *The Oxford Companion to Jazz*

“In this exemplary work, combining meticulous, dedicated research and brilliant analytic illumination, Van de Leur has brought Strayhorn, the musician, and his legacy into full and unobstructed view at last, thus deepening our understanding of Ellingtonia. Indispensable!”

—Dan Morgenstern,  
Director, Institute of Jazz Studies, Rutgers University

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