

The Editor's Pick

By Tony Mottola *Jersey Jazz* Editor

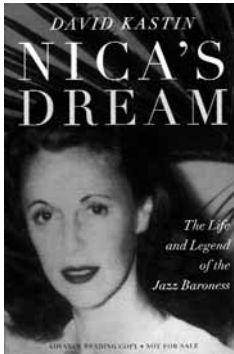
A Book for the Baroness

Nica's Dream

THE LIFE AND LEGEND OF THE JAZZ BARONESS

By David Kastin

(W.W. Norton & Co. 2011 | 288 pages | \$26.95)



The first biography of the Rothschild heiress who became a muse and patron to jazz masters Charlie Parker and Thelonious Monk will be published on June 20.

Raised in fairy-tale splendor, Kathleen Annie Pannonica Rothschild de Koenigswarter (known as "Nica") piloted her own plane across the English Channel, married a French baron, fought in the Resistance, and had five children — but then she heard a recording of Thelonious Monk's "Round Midnight." Beguiled by the beauty and liberating spirit of jazz, she left her family behind and moved to Manhattan, where she began hosting late-night jam sessions, socializing with Beat poets, and driving her silver Rolls Royce to the Five Spot and other fabled jazz venues. The tabloids first splashed her name across the headlines after Charlie Parker died in her hotel suite, but through her remarkable ministrations to Monk and dozens of other musicians she became a legend. Based on interviews with musicians, family members, historians, and artists. David Kastin's probing biography unwraps this enigmatic figure and evokes the vibrancy of New York during the birth of bebop and the advent of abstract expressionism.

A music historian and educator, David Kastin is the author of *I Hear America Singing*. His work has appeared in *DownBeat*, the *Village Voice*, and the Da Capo Best Music Writing series.

Pre-publication praise for the book has been enthusiastic, including this from Robin D. G. Kelley, author of *Thelonious Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original*.

"Finally! Nica's story told in Technicolor, with the grandeur to match her own. David Kastin penetrates the myths and legends about the Jazz Baroness. In doing so, he gives us a stunning cultural biography of New York City and a riveting portrait of one of the most fascinating figures of the 20th century. Bravo!"



WIN THIS BOOK

Jersey Jazz has a copy of *Nica's Dream* to give away to one lucky NJJS member. To enter simply E-mail your name and mailing address to: chickiejazzdog@njjs.org with the words "Book Contest" in the subject line. You may also mail your entry to the editor at the address on the publication masthead on this page. **JJ**

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NJJS Deadlines The deadline for submission of material for upcoming issues is as follows:

June: April 26 • July/August: May 26

NOTE: EARLY SUBMISSIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

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Tony Mottola Editor

27 Upper Mountain Ave., Montclair, NJ 07042
E-mail: editor@njjs.org

Linda Lobdell Art Director/Co-Editor

352 Highland Ave., Newark, NJ 07104

201-306-2769

E-mail: art@njjs.org

Fradley Garner International Editor

E-mail: fradleygarner@gmail.com

Dan Morgenstern Contributing Editor

E-mail: dmorgens@andromeda.rutgers.edu

Mitchell Seidel Contributing Photo Editor

Photo@njjs.org

John Maimone Entertainment Contributor

908-753-6722

E-mail: jjm426@att.net

Fred McIntosh Entertainment Contributor

201-784-2182

E-mail: derfie_07675@yahoo.com

NEW JERSEY JAZZ SOCIETY
OFFICERS 2010

Laura Hull President

PO Box 771 Morris Plains 07950

973-229-4275 | pres@njjs.org

Frank Mulvaney Vice President

908-233-4824

Mike Katz Treasurer

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Caryl Anne McBride Membership Chairperson

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DIRECTORS

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ADVISORS

Jeff Atterton, Schae Fox, Amos Kaune,

Bruce Lundvall, Bob Porter

Marketing/Public Relations Consultant: Don Jay Smith

Website: www.njjs.org

E-mail: info@njjs.org

Hotline: 1-800-303-NJJS (1-800-303-6557)

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