

For love and music

These authors combine their love of music with their love of writing to strike all the right chords **Earl Fowler**

Love is a many-splendored thing, of course, and music has charms to soothe a savage breast (not beast; you can look it up). So with a nod to the 54th annual Grammy Awards taking place Feb. 12 in L.A., two days before Valentine's Day, we're featuring books this month that pivot around shared loves for savage music and many-splendored breasts.

OK, we're kidding about that last part, but these don't skimp on the old-fashioned romance either:



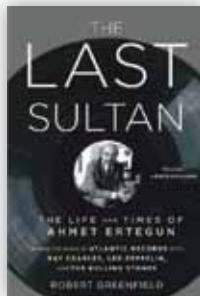
Everything I Own, by Raymond Beauchemin
The debut novel by this former *Movie Entertainment* contributor works brilliantly as a love story on three levels: man and music, boy and rock star, Quebec and Canada. The story of Montreal songwriter Michel Laflamme and his folk-rocker singer wife, Bijou, takes place against the chaotic backdrop of political upheavals and cultural evolution in Quebec since the 1970s — as well as Laflamme's troubled history with his father.

Above all, it's a 32-bar love song to Montreal, evoked here with both official languages in mellifluous counterpoint.

The Last Sultan: The Life and Times of Ahmet Ertegun

by Robert Greenfield

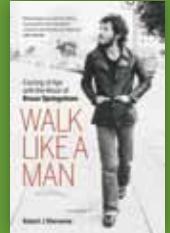
Creativity often flourishes at interstices of worlds that have no business colliding. So we shouldn't be surprised when the son of a high-ranking Turkish diplomat, spat out by the death throes of the Ottoman Empire, sculpts a fountainhead of Western pop music. As the founder of Atlantic Records in 1947, Ertegun helped to develop many of the greatest acts of the 20th century (Ray Charles, Otis Redding, the Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, Wilson Pickett and Aretha Franklin, for starters). He co-founded the New York Cosmos soccer team (bringing Pelé and Franz Beckenbauer to America), enjoyed an A-list social life and wrote classic blues tunes. Such hits as *Chains of Love* and *Sweet Sixteen* are usually attributed to an "A. Nugetre." Try spelling that backward.



Walk Like a Man: Coming of Age with the Music of Bruce Springsteen

by Robert Wiersema

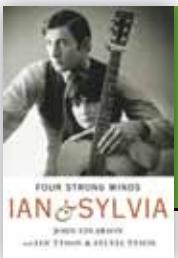
While the rest of us grew up enjoying the hot bands of our era, there was always that unmitigatedly, unconditionally consumed guy in the back row. Wiersema, a literary critic, book-seller and novelist who now lives in Victoria, was that guy. Tramps like him were born to run all over the continent, following Springsteen tours, collecting bootlegs and rarities, reading deep meanings into lyrics. This is a blend of personal biography, music criticism and memoir told in 13 tracks. Brilliant disguise.



Harlem Jazz Adventures: A European Baron's Memoir

by Timme Rosenkrantz

Anyone who dug Esi Edugyan's 2011 Giller Prize-winning *Half Blood Blues* was left wanting more from the Golden Age of Jazz. But here's a twist. Instead of black musicians going to Europe, how about a true story of a Danish aristocrat so smitten with the music that he relocates to New York? Written by a baron, witty short-story writer, record producer and concert promoter — a hapless entrepreneur dubbed "Honey-suckle Rosenkrantz" by Fats Waller — this newly translated memoir swings us into the orbits of Louis Armstrong, Benny Carter, Art Tatum, Duke Ellington, Bud Powell and scores of other greats.



Four Strong Winds: Ian and Sylvia

by John Einarson
Ian and Sylvia Tyson both contributed to this authorized story of the legendary folk duo, from their bohemian days in Toronto coffeehouses to the Greenwich Village folk scene, through their marriage and divorce and development as friends and independent artists. Their continuing influence on such groups as Blue Rodeo and the Tragically Hip and singers like Sarah McLachlan demonstrate that the good times aren't all gone, after all.

Earl Fowler is a contributing editor to *Movie Entertainment* magazine.