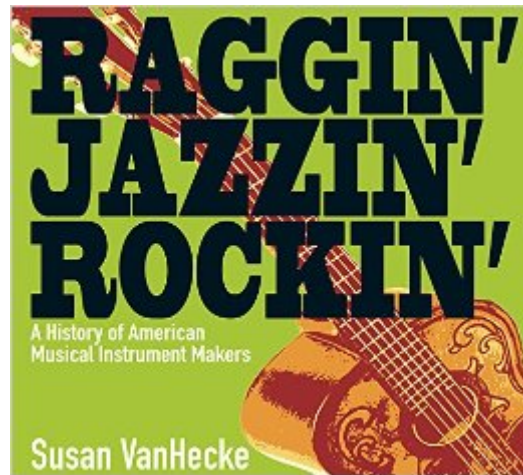


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# Raggin' Jazzin' Rockin': A History Of American Musical Instrument Makers



## Synopsis

2012 American Library Association Notable Children's Book 2012 YALSA-ALA Excellence in Young Adult Nonfiction Nominee Meet the inventors and innovators who defined American music history. A radio repairman named Leo Fender imagined a solid-body electric guitar. The inventor of 3-D glasses, Laurens Hammond, envisioned an electric organ in every home. And a German carpenter named Steinway immigrated to New York City with the dream of designing the greatest piano in the world. From Steinway's pianos, Bob Moog's synthesizers, and C.G. Conn's band instruments to Avedis Zildjian's cymbals, William Ludwig's drums, C.F. Martin's guitars, and more, noted music writer VanHecke offers a fascinating, insider view of the personalities and perseverance that led to some of music's most important innovations - from classical to jazz to rock. Includes more than 200 photos, many rare and vintage, plus source notes. Full color. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of each book will be donated to SupportMusic, a music education advocacy effort seeking to improve access and opportunity in music and arts learning. Support Music is a public service initiative of the NAMM Foundation, a nonprofit organization established by the National Association of Music Merchants. Its mission is to advance active participation in music-making.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1090L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 140 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 11.2 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,844,903 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Instruments #52 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Jazz #121 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > History

Age Range: 11 - 18 years

Grade Level: 6 and up

## Customer Reviews

Just as technological innovations have brought an enormous range of machines, devices, and gadgets into our lives, innovations in the design and production of musical instruments have enriched the types and quality of sounds we enjoy hearing. Inventions and improvements of musical instruments served as seeds for the business success of several American-based entrepreneurs. These entrepreneurs include Heinrich Steinway and his sons, creators of a tremendously successful piano company; William Ludwig, a maker of drums so renowned for quality that Ringo Starr from the Beatles had the Ludwig name painted in large letters across his drumhead; and Leo Fender, developer of one of the most popular electric guitars in history. These and other inventors of influential musical instruments had a keen understanding of how to produce new sounds and also how to grow their companies in changing economic times. This historical picture book provides an informative account of the development of eight U.S.-based companies that produce musical instruments, beginning with the early days of the founding fathers. Short vignettes of popular musicians who helped make these instruments a household name help to liven up the narrative. Although all eight company founders are white men, the author does make a consistent attempt to emphasize the role of women and African Americans in running these companies and playing the instruments as they advanced in their own careers.

Lots of details, and excellent illustration and graphics. Interesting selection of instrument makers, but there are lot remaining for future books.

Great research and photos guide the young reader to a full understanding of the evolution of modern day musical instruments.

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