



Faith In Time: The Life Of Jimmy Scott

By David Ritz

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Faith In Time: The Life Of Jimmy Scott By David Ritz

The voice of Jimmy Scott is one of the world's most mesmerizing instruments, transcending gender and age. But its beauty is inextricably entwined with pain, hardship, and tragedy-yet Scott's resilience made his life a story of triumph. Born in Cleveland in 1925, Scott was orphaned as a teenager, and suffered from Kallman's syndrome, which kept his voice unnaturally high. He toured with Lionel Hampton in the '40s and recorded for Savoy Records. In 1962 Ray Charles produced and played on what many agree was Scott's best album, *Falling in Love Is Wonderful*, and a career breakthrough seemed imminent. But it was not to be, and Scott returned to Cleveland to work as an orderly and a shipping clerk-until he was rediscovered performing at his friend Doc Pomus's funeral in March of 1991. Acclaimed biographer David Ritz, with Scott's cooperation, has created a poignant portrait of a man whose voice cuts to the sadness and hope within us all. *Faith in Time* resonates like a haunting melody.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Ritz, who has helped Ray Charles and Laila Ali write their autobiographies, now turns his attentive eye to the life of singer "Little" Jimmy Scott. Born in Cleveland in 1925, Scott grew up in a town bursting with clubs and theaters that showcased the touring jazz greats, from big band to the then-nascent bebop. While still a teenager, Scott finagled his way from a job as an usher at a Cleveland theater into singing a few numbers after Lester Young had performed. The audience was transfixed by his unearthly voice and clamored to know if he was a man or woman. Scott suffered from Kallman's Syndrome, which meant that his testicles never descended and his genitals never fully developed, keeping his voice in a high, haunting register. Never fully welcomed into the jazz world, Scott performed wherever and whenever he could over the decades. He sang with Lionel Hampton and Charlie Parker, recorded an album with Ray Charles and influenced a generation of singers from Frankie Valli to Marvin Gaye. But such occasional gigs never paid the bills and Scott kept taking odd jobs to support himself and his many poorly chosen spouses. A brief renaissance that came in the early 1990s offered the strange sight of the diminutive singer touring with Lou Reed and singing on an episode of *Twin Peaks*. Ritz keeps his distance, letting people like Reed, B.B. King, Quincy Jones, and especially the odd and feisty Scott himself, tell the story of a man caught between worlds and almost lost in time.

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From Library Journal

With the release of the album *All the Way* in 1992, Jimmy Scott, then 66, finally got his due and was recognized as a master interpreter of vocal jazz. Ritz, who has written acclaimed biographies of Marvin Gaye, B.B. King, and Aretha Franklin, offers the first profile of the singer, written with the full cooperation of Scott, his family, and his colleagues. Refreshingly, Ritz refuses to sensationalize subjects that he could easily hype: Scott suffers from Kallman's Syndrome (a hormone deficiency that stunted the growth of his testicles), which resulted in his famous alto, and he has struggled with drinking. Instead, Ritz focuses on Scott's remarkable resiliency. Over the course of his 60-year career (which included a stint with Lionel Hampton's orchestra), he has overcome shady businessmen and personal crises with a stoic *joie de vivre*. This trait is very likely the reason he has been able to rely on friends over the years, to work jobs not related to music, and to realize he has a musical gift that will be acknowledged every so often. These career fits and starts would frustrate even the strongest person, so Scott's life is a fine example of a way to use talent while making a way in the world. Considering he began his career in the 1940s and continues to sing to this day, his story is intriguing and inspiring. Recommended for any library with healthy music holdings. William Kenz, Minnesota State Univ., Moorhead

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From [Booklist](#)

Jazz singer Jimmy Scott should be better known for two attributes: one of the purest voices in popular music, and one of the all-time great comeback stories. Scott suffers from Kallman's syndrome, which stunted his growth at age 13 but left him with a haunting, androgynous voice. Every time success loomed, however, fate sidetracked his career. He had a huge hit in 1950 as vocalist with Lionel Hampton's band, but his name didn't appear on the record's label. A 1962 album produced by Ray Charles promised to be his commercial breakthrough, but it was withdrawn in a contractual dispute. After that setback, Scott worked menial jobs for 25 years. Then he sang before music-biz luminaries and record execs at the funeral of his songwriter friend, Doc Pomus. The next day he had a record contract, and today, at 77, he performs in packed clubs. Scott remains a cult figure, but he has grown into a *large* cult, probably eager to read this intimate portrait, written

with his, his family's, and his colleagues' full cooperation. *Gordon Flagg*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jena Alvarez:

Are you kind of occupied person, only have 10 or 15 minute in your morning to upgrading your mind ability or thinking skill also analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book in comparison with can satisfy your short period of time to read it because this all time you only find book that need more time to be learn. Faith In Time: The Life Of Jimmy Scott can be your answer given it can be read by you actually who have those short time problems.

Edward Brown:

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