



After years as a bass player in Chicago and on New York's famed 52nd Street working with Stuff Smith, Billie Holiday and George Shearing, among others, John Levy became the personal manager for many of the greatest artists in jazz. Get behind the scenes with Nancy Wilson, Ramsey Lewis, Joe Williams, Cannonball Adderley, Wes Montgomery, Shirley Horn, Roberta Flack, Betty Carter, Dakota Staton, and Ahmad Jamal, to name just a few. (Foreword by Quincy Jones. Beckham Publications, 2001)

I wrote "Men, Women, and Girl Singers" in John's voice, using the first person as a literary device. When the publisher chose to market the book as an autobiography, the title was amended to include "My Life as a Musician Turned Talent Manager"

As John puts it, "Devra has been my best friend and confidant for more than twenty years now. If anyone knows me, she does. She has given me the gift of her words and she has used those words, unselfishly, to communicate my thoughts, my memories, and my life – from my perspective. So while I did not dictate these pages, what you have here is truly my autobiography."

## Reviews

[Don Heckman](#), Los Angeles Times

Nat Hentoff, Jazz Times ["John Levy: A Personal Manager Beyond Category"](#)

[Tony Giske](#), Hollywood Reporter

## Endorsements & Blurbs

George Shearing: Knowing John for so many years, I know this book to be the product of a man of great integrity, knowledge of the music business and wonderful sense of humor. Well done, John...and thank you for being my very dear friend. - George Shearing, jazz pianist

Arsenio Hall: John Levy is a soft-spoken genius. An extinct breed. The most important lesson that he taught me is that you don't have to be a heartless animal, stepping on everyone in your path to win in this game. Good guys can finish first...without a John Levy there would be no me. He's the total manager! – Arsenio Hall comedian

Oscar Peterson: John Levy represents an honest, trustworthy and intelligent epitome of what you might call a performer's agent. Apart from his talents in this aspect of the music business, he is also respected as having been one hell of a bass layer. I salute you John. – Oscar Peterson, jazz pianist

George Wein: My respect and admiration for him is unlimited. His story is unique and should be read by all. I know that John Levy will live forever. The love of all of the people he has worked with, great artists like Nancy Wilson, George Shearing, Cannonball Adderley, Wes Montgomery, and Joe Williams, will surely sustain him. – George Wein, producer

Wally Amos: If you would like a front row seat to the evolution of jazz, then Men, Women, and Girl Singers is a must read. The bonus is how John managed to survive all the changes in the music industry with his integrity intact. This is a walk through the history of Jazz Music led by a man of strong, definite values. John Levy is my friend and I've watched him live this book! – Wally Amos, author, The Cookie Never Crumbles

Clarence Avant: For many years, I have been watching John Levy fly beneath the radar while quietly and brilliantly guiding the careers of many of the greatest names in jazz. He has always preferred to shine the light on his clients. Finally, he is telling his story. If you want to learn something about people pursuing their dreams, if you have an interest in the world of jazz and the artists who create it, you must read this book. – Clarence Avant, former chairman, Motown Records, and former owner of KAGB radio (now KACE) in Los Angeles.