



Sessions with Sinatra: Frank Sinatra and the Art of Recording

By Charles L. Granata

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Featuring 100 photographs of Frank Sinatra working with orchestras and arrangers, listening to playbacks, and, of course, singing, this book tells the whole story of how he created the Sinatra sound and translated the most intense personal emotions into richly worked-out songs of unrivalled expressiveness. One of the thrills of listening to Sinatra is wondering how he did it—and this book explains it all, bringing the dedicated fan and the casual music lover alike into the recording studio to witness the fascinating working methods he introduced and mastered in his quest for recorded perfection. Revealed is how, in addition to introducing and perfecting a unique vocal style, Sinatra was also his own in-studio producer—personally supervising every aspect of his recordings, from choosing the songs and arrangers to making minute adjustments in microphone placement.

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Sessions with Sinatra: Frank Sinatra and the Art of Recording By Charles L. Granata Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Granata, producer and director of Sinatra's Columbia recordings, offers a rare glimpse into the work that went into making the Sinatra sound. He covers all the technical details, from Sinatra's early pioneering of the microphone as instrument to transcripts of his many studio directions and casual late-night jokes. Granata summarizes the major recording eras in Sinatra's career, from the Columbia years (1943-1952) to his Duets work in the mid-1990s with singers such as Bono and Chrissie Hynde. With a foreword by adoring sound engineer Ramone and afterword by Nancy Sinatra, this testimony to Sinatra's studio time is weakened only by its unwavering homage. But much can be read between the lines. What is said (Sinatra is quoted, "You can never do anything in life quite on your own.... Making a record is as near as you can get to it") and what can be extrapolated (Sinatra did not, perhaps, appreciate the debt owed to songwriters, musicians, producers and arrangers) can make for good reading. Late in the book, Granata confesses, "Sinatra's personal relationships with the musicians were complex.... Maybe Sinatra feared the old adage, 'Familiarity breeds contempt.'" It's evident throughout that Sinatra asserted his ideas and ego masterfully, creating his unique sound and image with an iron will. Those who enjoyed Bill Zehme's book on Sinatra's style, *The Way You Wear Your Hat*, will welcome this look at the technique, skills and behind-the-scenes action involved in one of the longest, most successful singing careers in U.S. history. 100 photographs. (Nov.)

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From Kirkus Reviews

For all the mountains of verbiage expended on Frank Sinatra's personality during his life and since his death, very little has been written about Sinatra as a singer and recording artist. Granata, who has had access to all the extant unedited tapes of Sinatra's hundreds of sessions in the studio, ably fills that gap here. Granata is project director of the massive re-release of Sinatra's Columbia recordings; his essay in *Frank Sinatra and Popular Culture* (1998) was singled out for praise in reviews of that collection, and provided a foretaste of this longer study of Sinatra as singer and musician. As he points out, Sinatra's career coincided with several important developments in the technology of sound recording, spanning nearly seven decades from the era of wax master recordings to the digitally recorded compact disc. Sinatra sang through the big band era to the post-modern post-rock era, from mono to stereo, from lacquer and shellac to magnetic tape. As a result, this erudite but lucid volume comprises not merely a history of Sinatra's career but also a crash course in the developing story of preserving music in recordings. Granata, who never lets you forget that Sinatra was a supremely gifted musician, includes interviews with dozens of the men and women who worked with him in the studio, illustrating his working methods. The result is a truly musical biography that charts the most important part of Sinatra's legacy, his singing. If you can only buy one Sinatra book after you've bought all the hundreds of records or CDs this is the one to have. -- *Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Review

"If you can buy only one Sinatra book . . . this is the one to have." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"A genial and informative listening companion." —*Boston Globe*

"This magnificent book is a must-read." —*San Francisco Examiner*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Arlene Martin:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge the actual information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want really feel happy read one together with theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. The particular Sessions with Sinatra: Frank Sinatra and the Art of Recording is kind of guide which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

George Cornelius:

The publication untitled Sessions with Sinatra: Frank Sinatra and the Art of Recording is the reserve that recommended to you you just read. You can see the quality of the guide content that will be shown to an individual. The language that publisher use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The article author was did a lot of analysis when write the book, and so the information that they share for you is absolutely accurate. You also might get the e-book of Sessions with Sinatra: Frank Sinatra and the Art of Recording from the publisher to make you considerably more enjoy free time.

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