



Who Can Afford to Improvise?: James Baldwin and Black Music, the Lyric and the Listeners (Hardback)

By Ed Pavlic

Fordham University Press, United States, 2015. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. More than a quarter-century after his death, James Baldwin remains an unparalleled figure in American literature and African American cultural politics. In *Who Can Afford to Improvise?* Ed Pavlic offers an unconventional, lyrical, and accessible meditation on the life, writings, and legacy of James Baldwin and their relationship to the lyric tradition in black music, from gospel and blues to jazz and RB. Based on unprecedented access to private correspondence, unpublished manuscripts and attuned to a musically inclined poet's skill in close listening, *Who Can Afford to Improvise?* frames a new narrative of James Baldwin's work and life. The route retraces the full arc of Baldwin's passage across the pages and stages of his career according to his constant interactions with black musical styles, recordings, and musicians. Presented in three books - or movements - the first listens to Baldwin, in the initial months of his most intense visibility in May 1963 and the publication of *The Fire Next Time*. It introduces the key terms of his lyrical aesthetic and identifies the shifting contours of Baldwin's career from his early work...



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