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**LOVE SONGS:
THE HIDDEN HISTORY**

TED GIOIA

Thursday, February 11, 2016 - 7:00 pm
Montpelier Room
Library of Congress, James Madison Building

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LOVE SONGS: THE HIDDEN HISTORY

TED GIOIA, Author



About the Speaker

Ted Gioia is a musician and author, and has published nine non-fiction books, most recently the acclaimed *Love Songs: The Hidden History* (Oxford University Press). Gioia has been called "one of the outstanding music historians in America" by *The Dallas Morning News*. He has served on the faculty of Stanford University, and is published in many of the leading newspapers, periodicals and websites, including *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The American Scholar*, *Music Quarterly*, *Bookforum*, *Salon*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Popular Music*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Millions*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Threepenny Review*, *PopMatters*, and *The Hudson Review*. He is currently columnist for *The Daily Beast*.

Gioia is the author of *The History of Jazz*, which has sold more than 100,000 copies and ranks as the bestselling survey of jazz published during the last quarter century. *The History of Jazz* was selected as one of the twenty best books of the year by Jonathan Yardley in *The Washington Post*, and was chosen as a notable book of the year in *The New York Times*. In 2012, Gioia released the bestselling *The Jazz Standards: A Guide to the Repertoire*. The book received early praise from Dave Brubeck and Sonny Rollins, and was lauded by *The Wall Street Journal* as "the first general-interest, wide-ranging and authoritative guide to the basic contemporary jazz canon."

From 2007 until 2010, Gioia served as founding president, editor and resident blogger for www.jazz.com, a popular web music media portal. In 2006, Gioia published two books simultaneously, *Work Songs* and *Healing Songs*, the result of more than a decade of research into traditional music. Both works were honored with a special ASCAP-Deems Taylor Award. Gioia's 2008 book *Delta Blues* was also selected by *The New York Times* as one of the 100 most notable of the year, and was picked as one of the best books of the

year by *The Economist*. Gioia has also written extensively on popular culture, most notably in his 2009 book *The Birth (and the Death) of Cool*, a work of cultural criticism and a historical survey of hipness. His concept of post-cool, outlined in this work, was highlighted as one of the "ideas of the year" by *Adbusters*. *The Washington Post* has written of this book: "The prose is so strong, simple and evocative that it brings the reader almost to tears with longing... It will force you to think about making connections you haven't made before."

Gioia was raised in a Sicilian-Mexican household in Hawthorne, California, a working class neighborhood in the South-Central area of Los Angeles. Gioia was valedictorian and a National Merit Scholar at Hawthorne High School, and attended Stanford University. There he received a degree in English (graduating with honors and distinction), served as editor of Stanford's literary magazine, *Sequoia*, and wrote regularly for *The Stanford Daily*. He was a member of Stanford's College Bowl team, which was featured on television, and defeated Yale in the national finals. Gioia also worked extensively as a jazz pianist during this period, and designed and taught a class on jazz at Stanford while still an undergraduate. After graduation, Gioia received a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University, where he graduated with first class honors. He then received an MBA from Stanford University.

Gioia has enjoyed successes in the worlds of music, writing and business. In the business world, Gioia has consulted with Fortune 500 companies while working for McKinsey and the Boston Consulting Group. He helped Sola International complete an LBO and IPO on the New York Stock Exchange in the 1990s. He has undertaken business projects in 25 countries on five continents, and has managed large businesses.

But Gioia is best known for his activities in the jazz world. He worked with Stanford's Department of Music in the 1980s to establish a formal jazz studies program, and served on the faculty alongside artist-in-residence Stan Getz, for several years. Around this time, Gioia's first book was published by Oxford University Press, *The Imperfect Art*, which was awarded the ASCAP-Deems Taylor award and was named a "Jazz Book of the Century" by *Jazz Educators Journal*. Gioia released his first recording as a jazz pianist a few months later — *The End of the Open Road*, a trio recording with Eddie Moore and Larry Grenadier—and received airplay on more than 500 radio stations in the U.S. Gioia also produced a series of recordings featuring other West Coast jazz musicians, and has since recorded two more CDs, *Tango Cool* and *The City is a Chinese Vase*.

Gioia's follow-up book for Oxford University Press, *West Coast Jazz*, is frequently acknowledged as one of the classics of the jazz literature. *West Coast Jazz* was re-issued in an expanded edition by University of California Press in 1998 and remains the definitive work on the subject. Gioia's current interests cover a wide range of areas. He is composing a series of solo piano pieces that draw from both jazz and classical music traditions. He also reviews contemporary fiction for various periodicals and his writing on books can be found at his web sites www.greatbooksguide.com, www.fractiousfiction.com, www.thenewcanon.com, www.postmodernmystery.com and www.conceptualfiction.com. Gioia's next book, *How to Listen to Jazz*, will be released by Basic Books in Spring 2016.