



For Immediate Release

Best-selling author Ted Gioia explores the changing landscape of an American lifestyle.

The Birth (and Death) of the Cool reveals where we've been—and where we're going.

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Social Science | Music History

The Birth (and Death) of the Cool

By Ted Gioia

Denver, CO (7/21/2009)—It's hard to imagine that “the cool” could ever go out of style. After all, cool *is* style. Isn't it? And it may be harder to imagine a world where people no longer aspire to coolness. In this intriguing cultural history, nationally acclaimed author Ted Gioia shows why cool is not a timeless concept and how it has begun to lose meaning and fade into history.

Gioia deftly argues that what began in the Jazz Age and became iconic in the 1950s with Miles Davis, James Dean, and others has been manipulated, stretched, and pushed to a breaking point—not just in our media, entertainment, and fashion industries, but also by corporations, political leaders, and social institutions. Tolling the death knell for the cool, this thought-provoking book reveals how and why a new cultural tone is emerging, one marked by sincerity, earnestness, and a quest for authenticity.

Ted Gioia is a musician and author and has published six highly acclaimed books, including *Delta Blues*, *Work Songs*, and *West Coast Jazz*. Through his books and articles, he has established himself as one of the leading music writers and cultural critics of our times. Gioia's *The History of Jazz* was selected as one of the 20 best books of the year in *The Washington Post* and was a notable book of the year in *The New York Times*. He is a jazz pianist, a producer, and the founding president of Jazz.com, a leading music-oriented website. More information can be found at tedgioia.com.



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