



**WHEN**

WRITTEN BY NICK WEST • ILLUSTRATIONS BY KYLE SMITH

**FREEDOM SINGS**

THE MUSIC AND MELODIES OF **OSCAR PETERSON**



**WHEN  
FREEDOM SINGS**  
**THE MUSIC AND MELODIES OF OSCAR PETERSON**

© Copyright 2026 TEACH Magazine

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, taping, or any information storage and retrieval system without the prior written consent of the copyright holder.

Permission to reprint copyright material is gratefully acknowledged. Every effort was made to trace ownership of copyright material, secure permission, and accurately acknowledge its use. Portions of this publication may be reproduced under licence from Access Copyright, or with the express written permission of TEACH Magazine, or as permitted by law. Permission to reproduce material from this resource is restricted to the purchasing school.

**Original Script**

Nick West

**Illustrations**

Kyle Smith

**Design**

Pauline Lopez

**Story Editing**

Kelsey McCallum, Raenu Sarathy, and Lisa Tran

**Copyediting**

Nupur Bagoria and Wili Liberman

**Translation**

Tommy Guignard

TEACH Magazine would like to thank those individuals who provided feedback and suggestions in the early stages of this project.

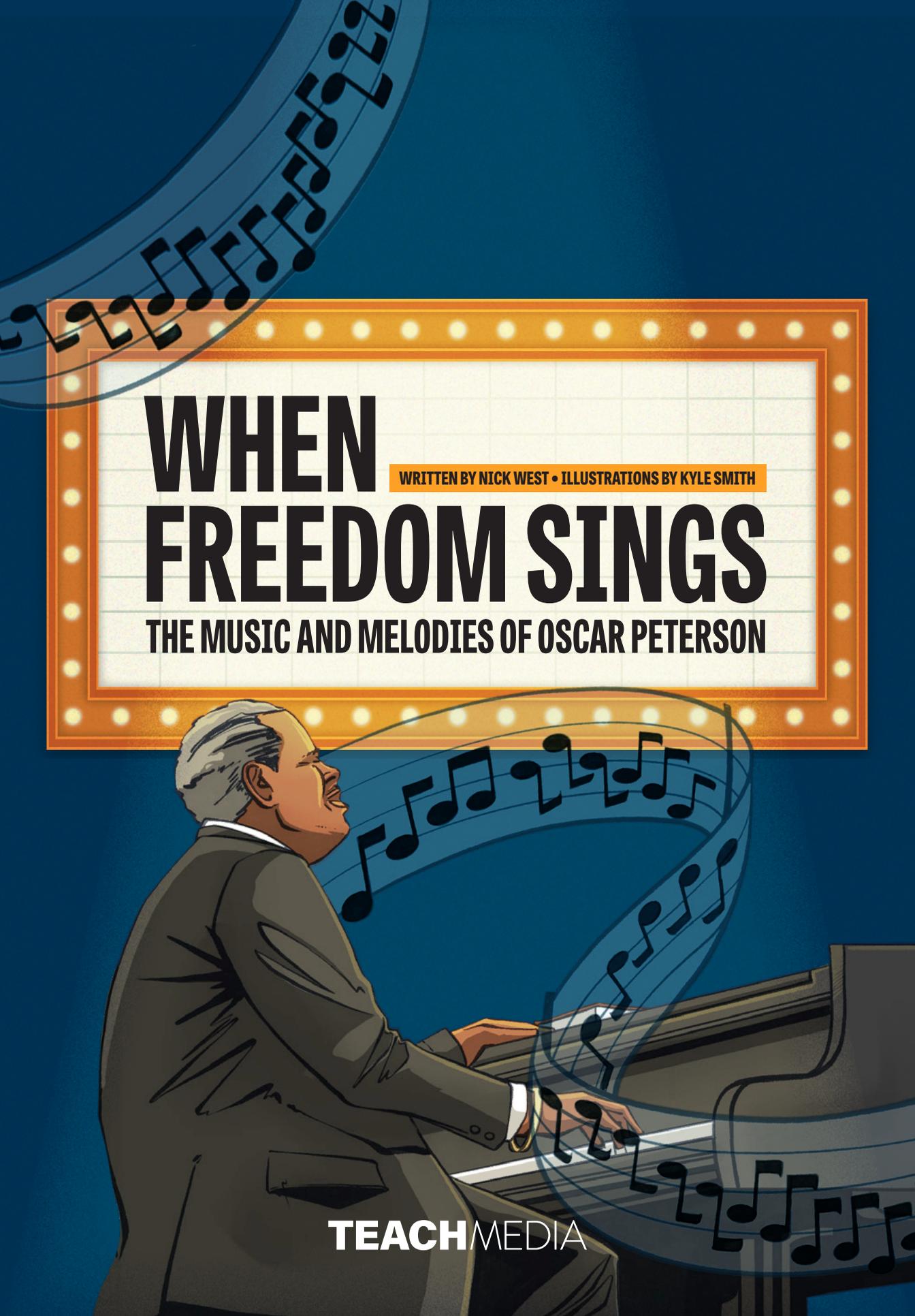
TEACH Magazine  
1655 Dupont St. Suite 330  
Toronto, ON M6P 3T1

Created in Canada

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.

Funded by the Government of Canada  
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

Canada



# WHEN FREEDOM SINGS

WRITTEN BY NICK WEST • ILLUSTRATIONS BY KYLE SMITH

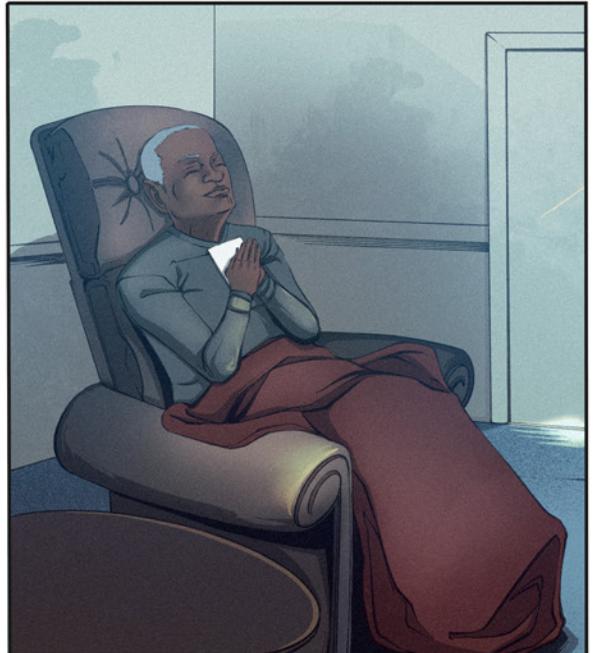
THE MUSIC AND MELODIES OF OSCAR PETERSON

TEACH MEDIA

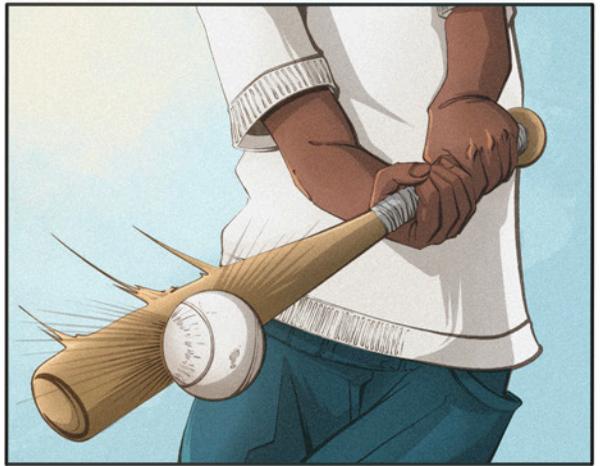
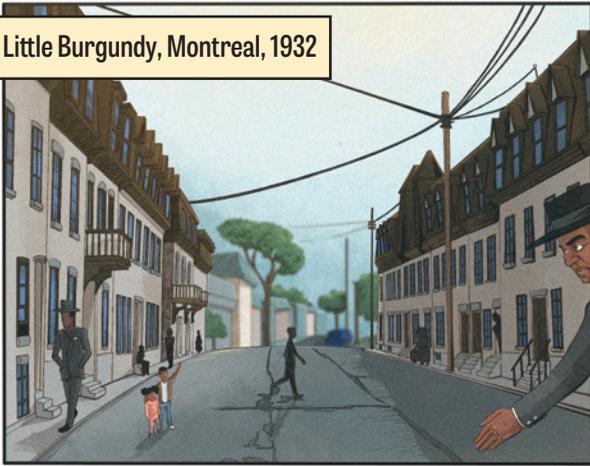
*INSPIRED BY  
TRUE EVENTS*

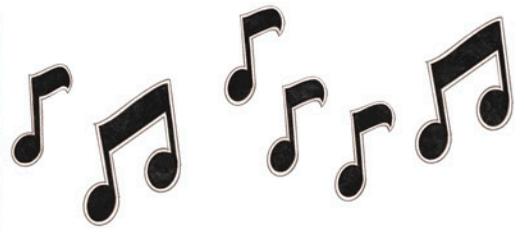
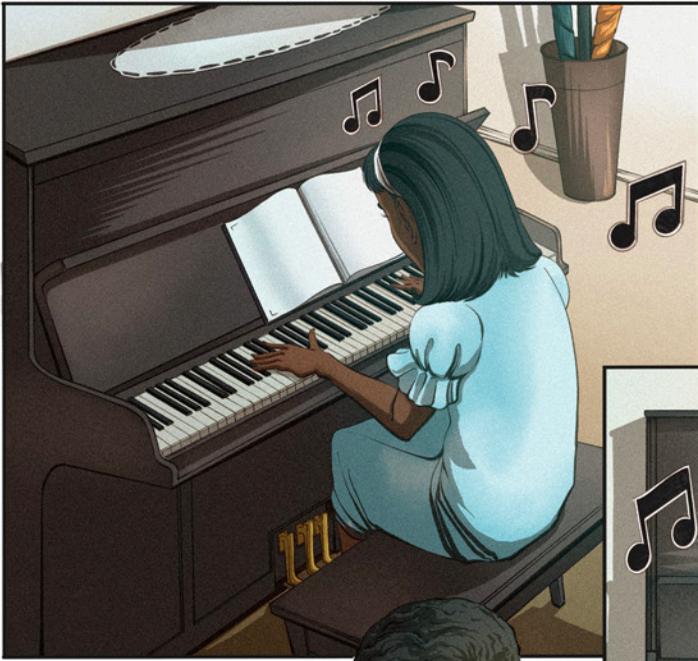


Mississauga, Ontario



Little Burgundy, Montreal, 1932





YOU HAD BETTER GET PRACTICING! POP COMES HOME TOMORROW.

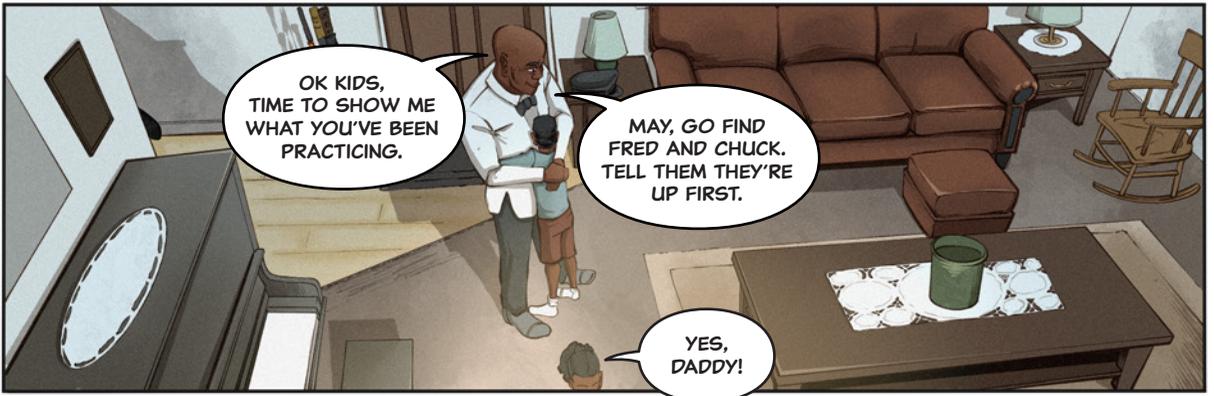


I KNOW, I KNOW, DAISY. I'M READY.



BUT YOU'VE BARELY PRACTICED!

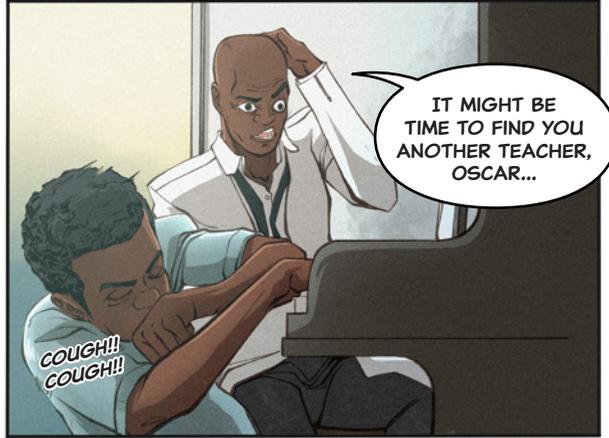
I HAVE SO! AND I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO YOU PLAY, TOO.



OK KIDS, TIME TO SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE BEEN PRACTICING.

MAY, GO FIND FRED AND CHUCK. TELL THEM THEY'RE UP FIRST.

YES, DADDY!

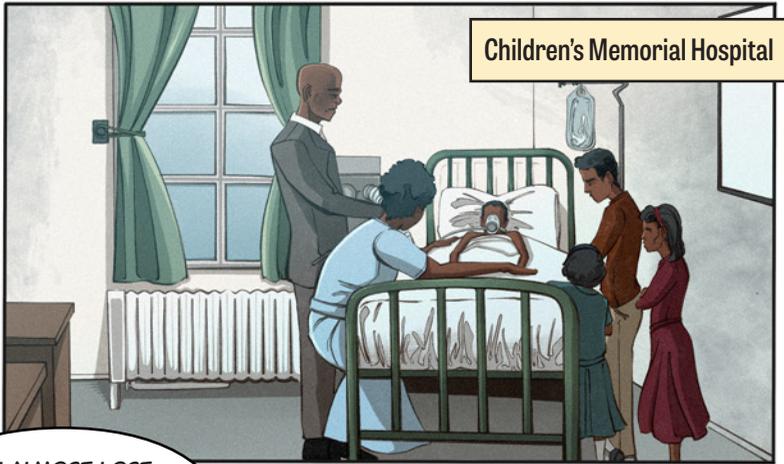


IT MIGHT BE TIME TO FIND YOU ANOTHER TEACHER, OSCAR...

COUGH!! COUGH!!



KATHLEEN? COME IN HERE! HURRY!



Children's Memorial Hospital

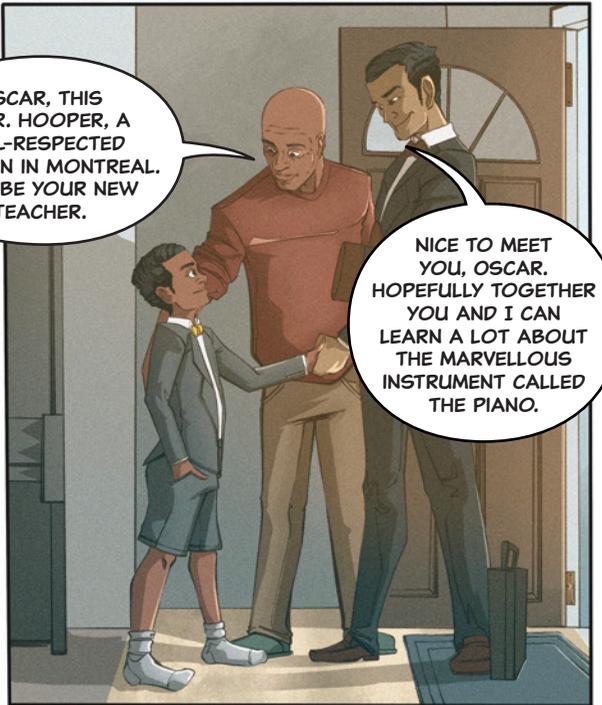


WE ALMOST LOST YOU THERE, OSCAR. TUBERCULOSIS IS A VERY SERIOUS DISEASE. BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS YOU'RE GOING TO BE OK.

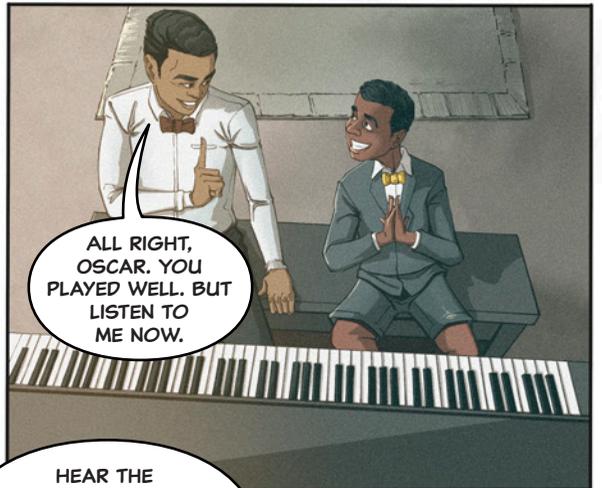
Two years later, Oscar's oldest brother, Fred, would pass away after also contracting TB.



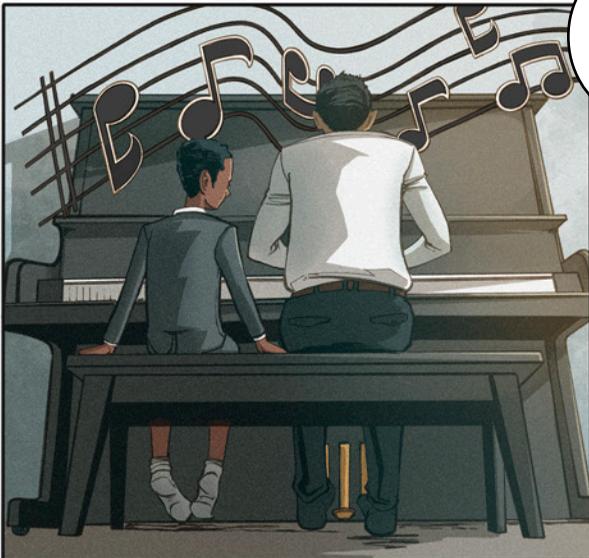
OSCAR, THIS IS MR. HOOPER, A WELL-RESPECTED MUSICIAN IN MONTREAL. HE'LL BE YOUR NEW TEACHER.



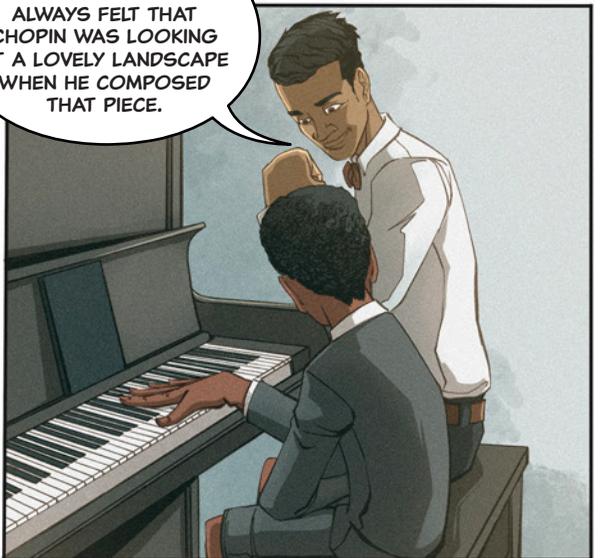
NICE TO MEET YOU, OSCAR. HOPEFULLY TOGETHER YOU AND I CAN LEARN A LOT ABOUT THE MARVELLOUS INSTRUMENT CALLED THE PIANO.

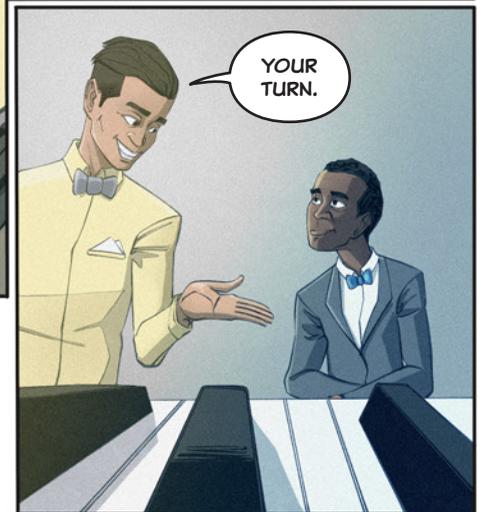
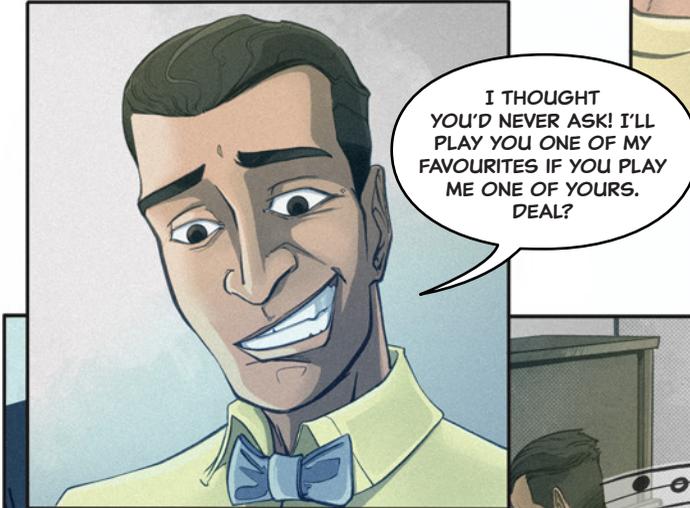
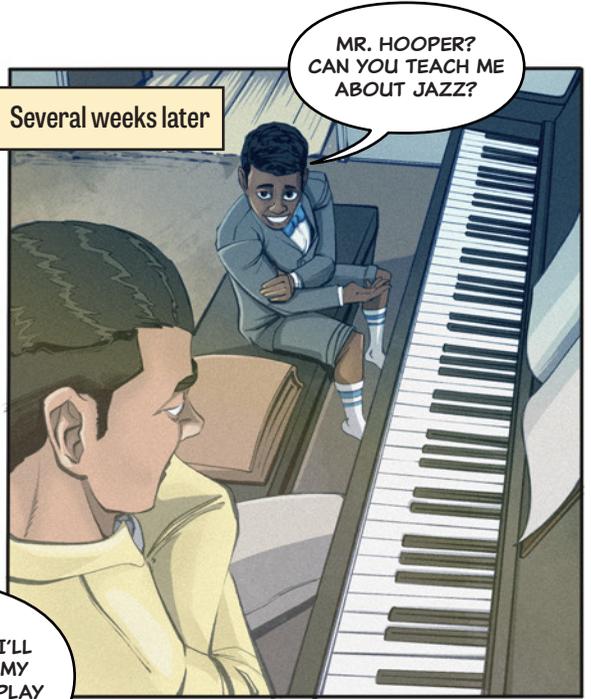
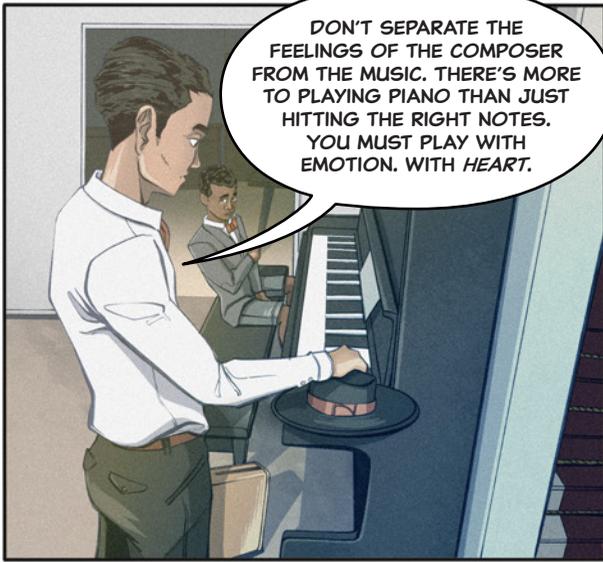


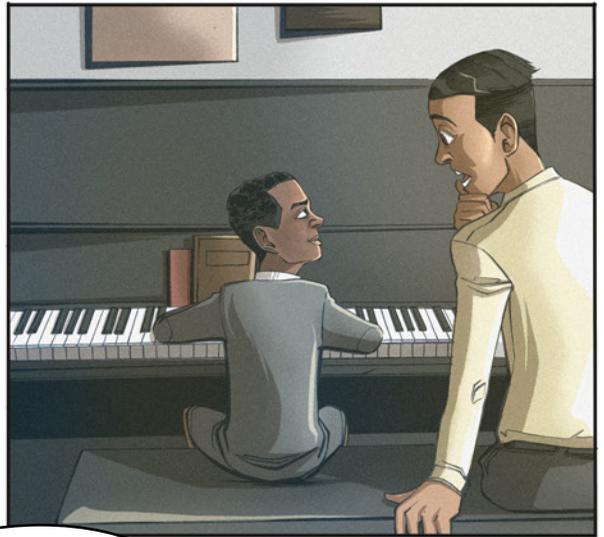
ALL RIGHT, OSCAR. YOU PLAYED WELL. BUT LISTEN TO ME NOW.



HEAR THE DIFFERENCE? I'VE ALWAYS FELT THAT CHOPIN WAS LOOKING AT A LOVELY LANDSCAPE WHEN HE COMPOSED THAT PIECE.

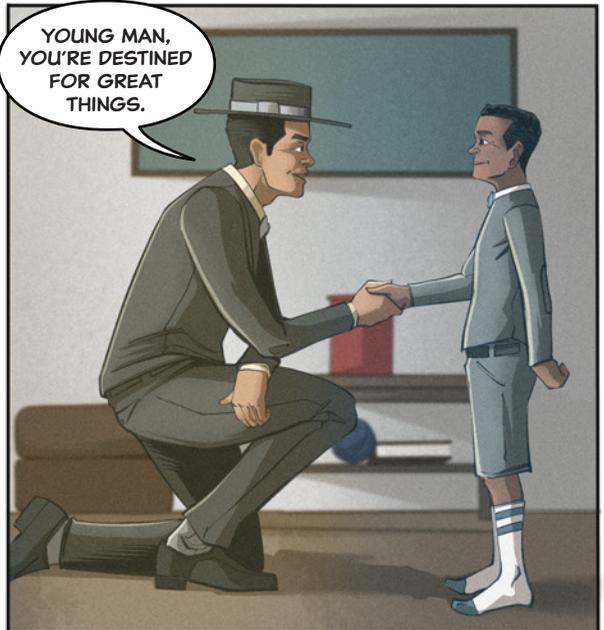
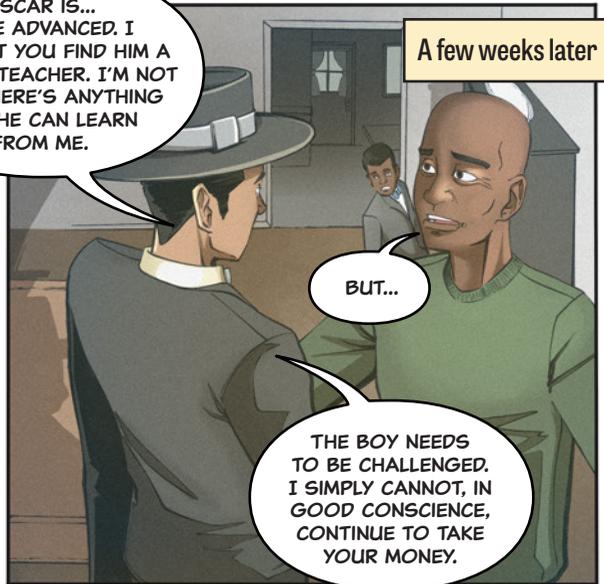






OSCAR IS... QUITE ADVANCED. I SUGGEST YOU FIND HIM A SERIOUS TEACHER. I'M NOT SURE THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE HE CAN LEARN FROM ME.

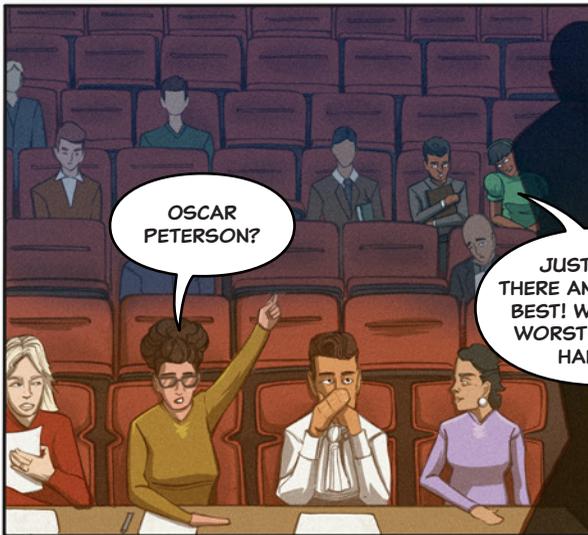
A few weeks later



Conservatoire de musique  
du Québec, Montreal

DAISY, I CAN'T  
BELIEVE YOU SIGNED  
ME UP WITHOUT  
EVEN ASKING!

YOU'LL BE  
FINE. I MEAN,  
YOU PRACTICED,  
RIGHT?



OSCAR  
PETERSON?

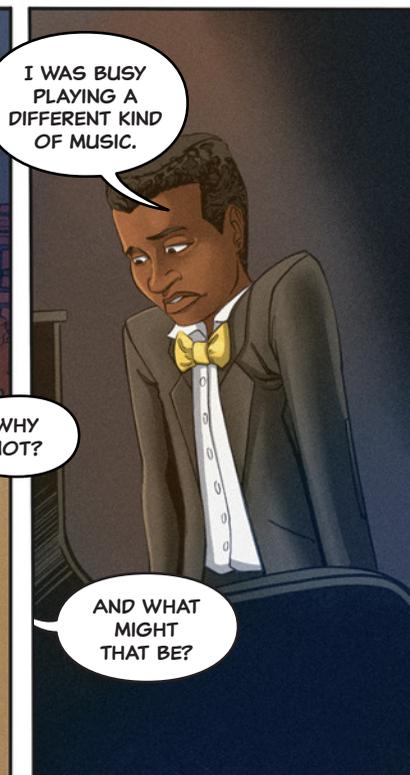
JUST GO UP  
THERE AND DO YOUR  
BEST! WHAT'S THE  
WORST THAT CAN  
HAPPEN?



IS SOMETHING  
THE MATTER?

I...  
I DIDN'T  
PRACTICE.

WHY  
NOT?



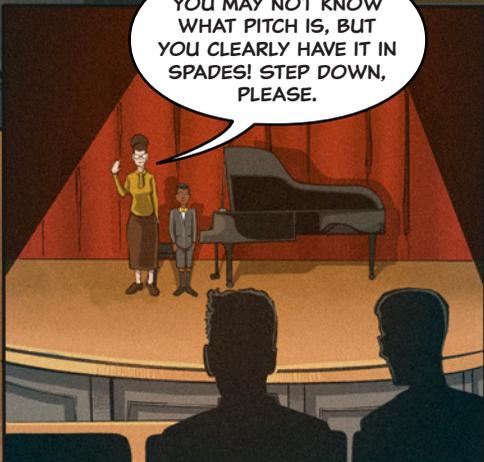
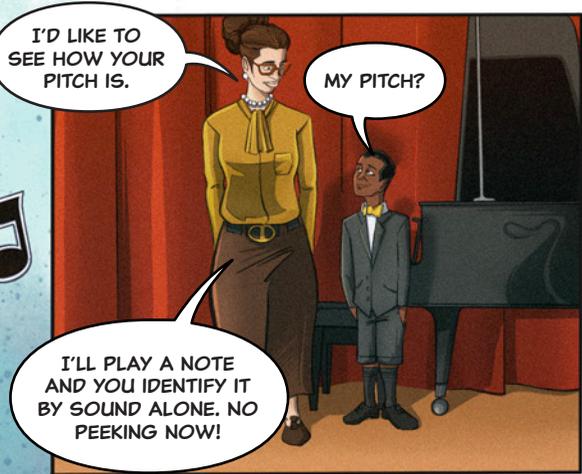
I WAS BUSY  
PLAYING A  
DIFFERENT KIND  
OF MUSIC.

AND WHAT  
MIGHT  
THAT BE?



JAZZ.

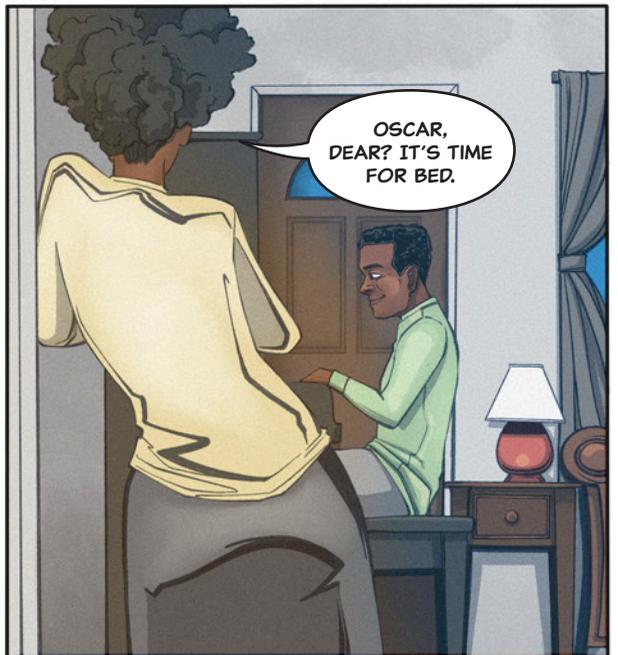
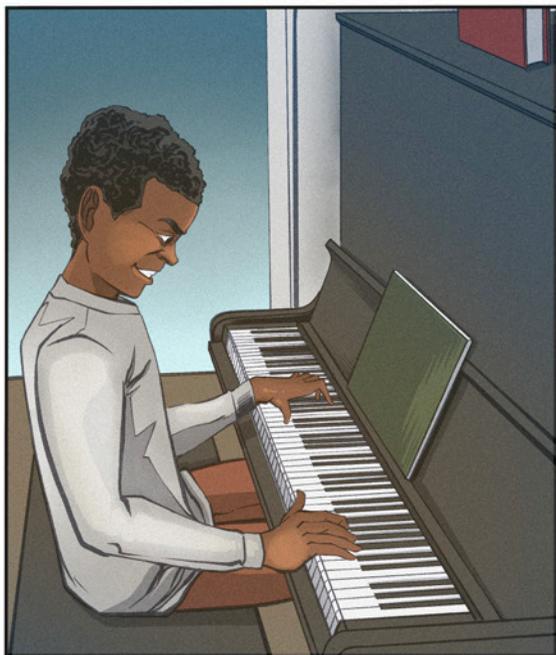
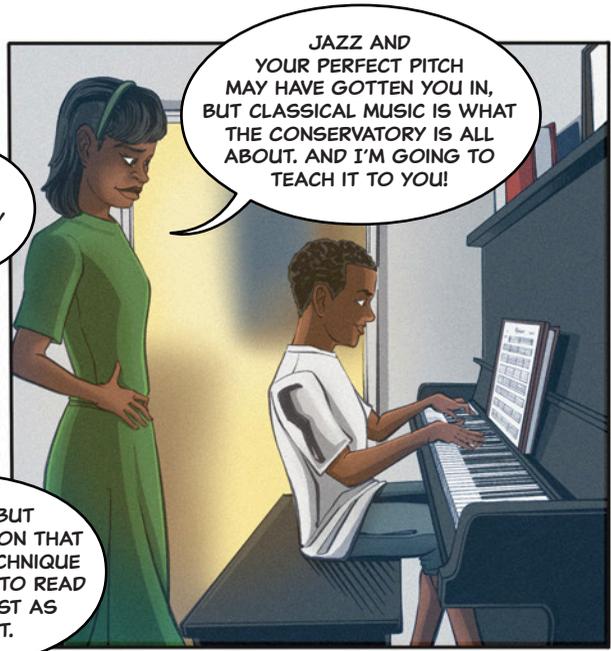
WELL THEN,  
LET'S HEAR  
SOME JAZZ.

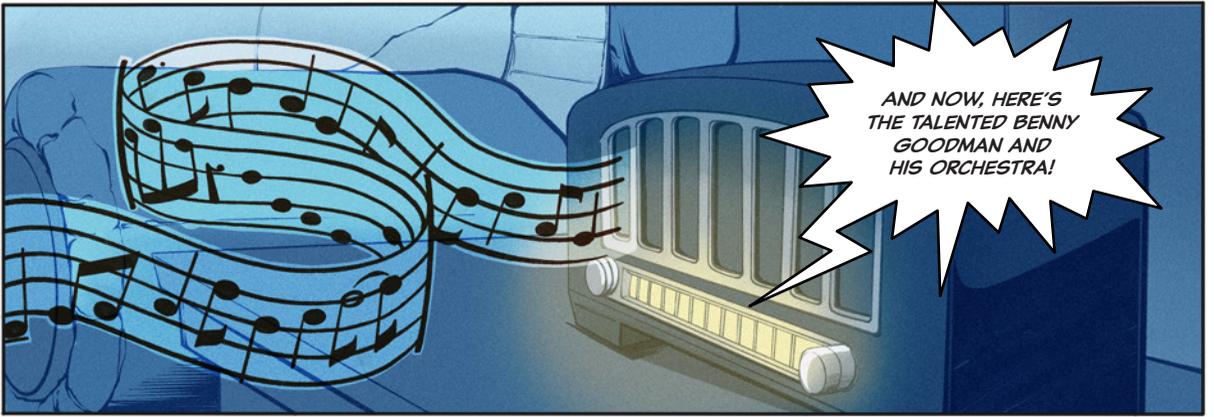




BEING ABLE TO KNOW THE NOTES, JUST BY HEARING THEM.

MAYBE SO, BUT YOU CAN'T RELY ON THAT SKILL ALONE. TECHNIQUE AND THE ABILITY TO READ MUSIC ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT.





High School of Montreal, 1940



WHERE'S OSCAR? WE NEED A FIFTH FOR HOCKEY!



YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS, PRACTICING IN THE AUDITORIUM AGAIN. C'MON. WE'LL GET SOMEONE ELSE.



LOOK AT THIS!

WHAT NOW, DAISY?



I DON'T KNOW...

YOU NEED TO KEEP CHALLENGING YOURSELF. THAT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL STAY SHARP.

Showcase your talent today!



HERE GOES NOTHING...



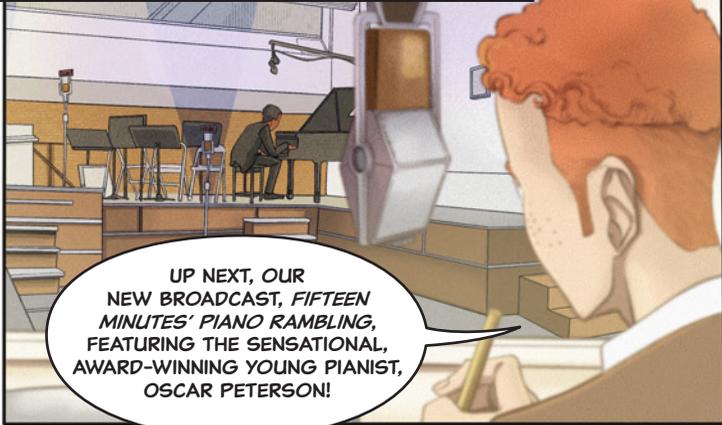
LIVE FROM TORONTO,  
WE ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT  
THE KEN SOBLE AMATEUR  
HOUR TOURNAMENT WINNER...  
FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD  
OSCAR PETERSON!



HE DID IT!  
HE REALLY  
DID IT!

OUR OSCAR'S  
GOT TALENT, THAT'S  
FOR SURE.

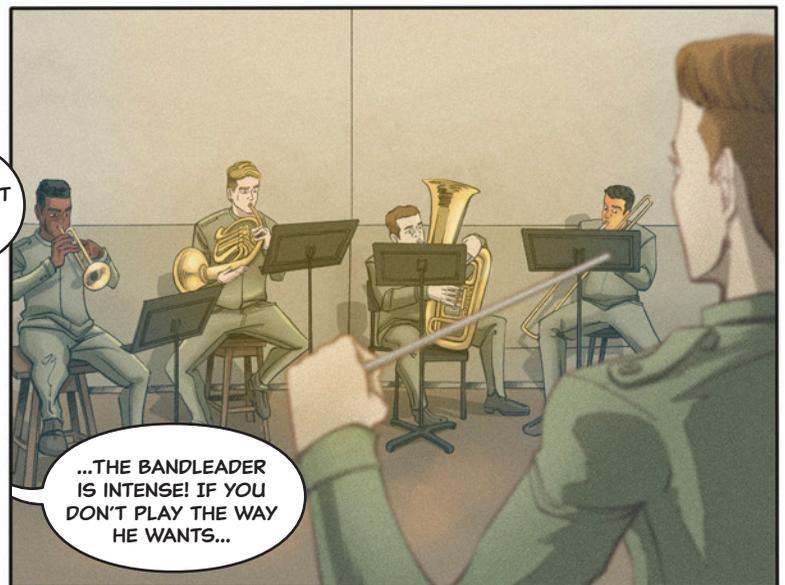
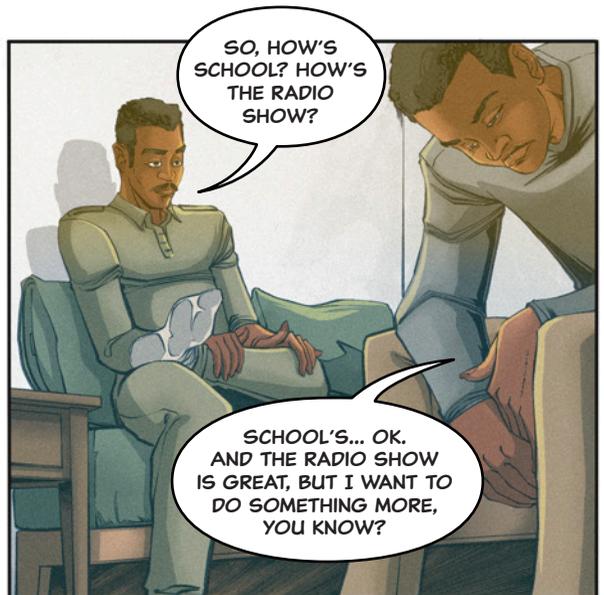
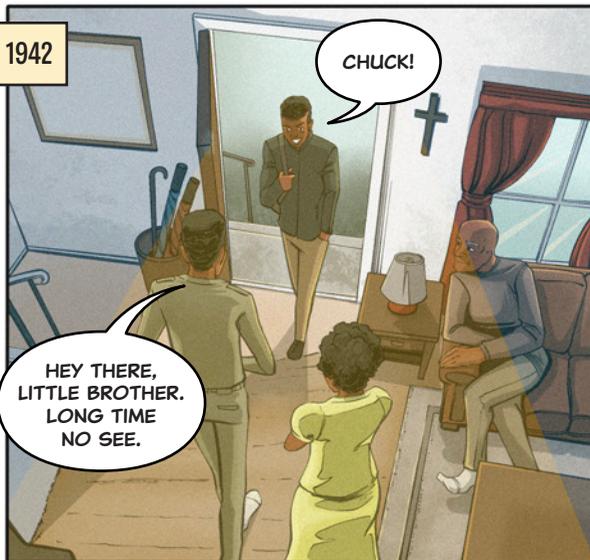
CKAC Radio Station, Montreal, several months later



UP NEXT, OUR  
NEW BROADCAST, FIFTEEN  
MINUTES' PIANO RAMBLING,  
FEATURING THE SENSATIONAL,  
AWARD-WINNING YOUNG PIANIST,  
OSCAR PETERSON!



1942



Victoria Hall, Montreal, a few weeks later



NICE TO MEET YOU, OSCAR. COME, LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO THE OTHERS.

THANK YOU, MR. HOLMES. IT'S AN HONOUR TO AUDITION FOR YOUR BAND.



EVERYONE, THIS IS OSCAR PETERSON.



OK, LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT!



I... I'VE NEVER SEEN MUSIC ARRANGEMENTS LIKE THAT BEFORE. AND EVERYONE ELSE IS SO MUCH OLDER... I'M NOT SURE I'D FIT IN...

NOTHING HERE IS BEYOND YOUR UNDERSTANDING. DON'T LET YOUR AGE, OR ANYTHING ELSE, DETER YOU.



YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES. THE TALENT, THE TECHNIQUE. IT'S ALL THERE. YOU JUST NEED SOME EXPERIENCE.



YOU'RE GOING TO GO FAR, OSCAR. MARK MY WORDS. AND BEFORE YOU DO, I WANT YOU IN THIS BAND. THINK IT OVER.

THANK YOU, MR. HOLMES. I WILL.

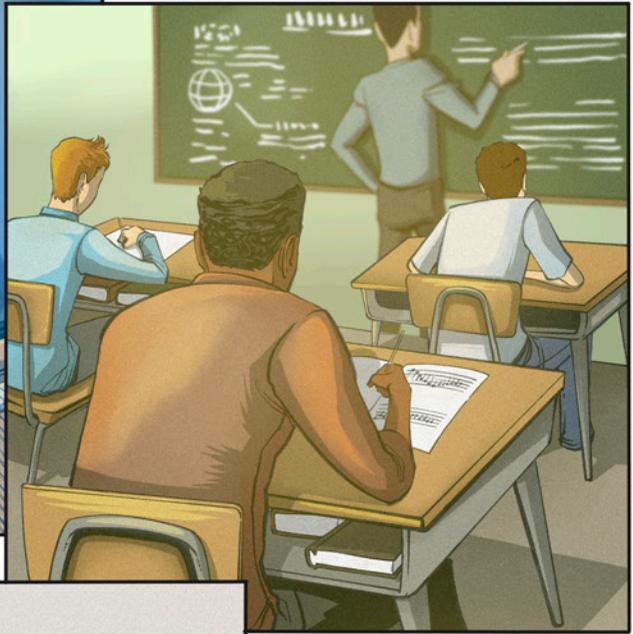
Several months later

EXCUSE ME,  
THIS IS A SEGREGATED  
VENUE. YOU CAN'T PLAY  
HERE WITH HIM.

WE'RE SCHEDULED  
TO PLAY HERE TONIGHT,  
AND WE'RE GOING TO  
PLAY TONIGHT.

LOOK, PAL...

NO, YOU LOOK!  
YOUR JOB IS TO WORK  
THE DOOR, NOT CHOOSE MY  
BAND. STICK TO WHAT YOU'RE  
GOOD AT AND LET  
US IN. NOW.



SORRY TO BE SUCH A DRAG, LIL. I'M JUST SO WORN OUT THESE DAYS.

NO TIME TO PLAY. GOTTA GET READY FOR TONIGHT'S GIG!



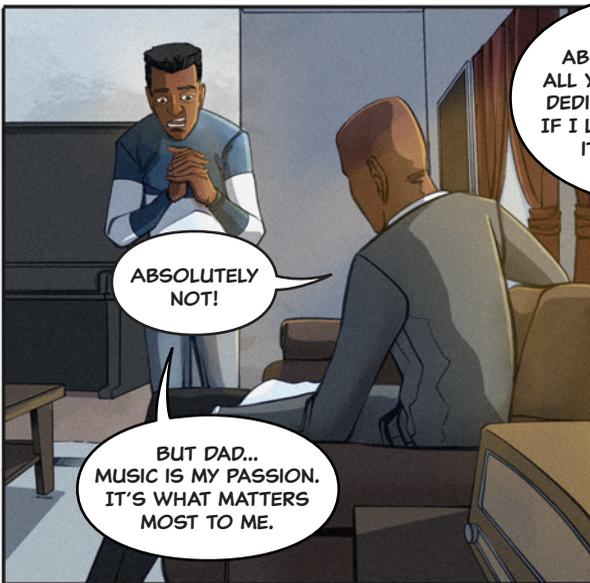


DAD, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU...



WHAT IS IT?

I... I THINK SCHOOL JUST ISN'T FOR ME ANYMORE. I WANT TO FOCUS ON MY CAREER INSTEAD.



ABSOLUTELY NOT!

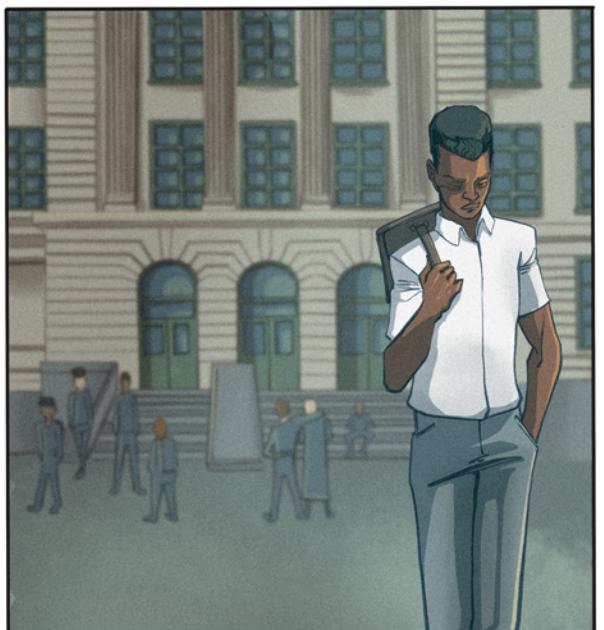
BUT DAD... MUSIC IS MY PASSION. IT'S WHAT MATTERS MOST TO ME.

OK, SON. HOW ABOUT THIS? I'VE SEEN ALL YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO THE PIANO. IF I LET YOU QUIT SCHOOL, IT MUST BE ON ONE CONDITION...

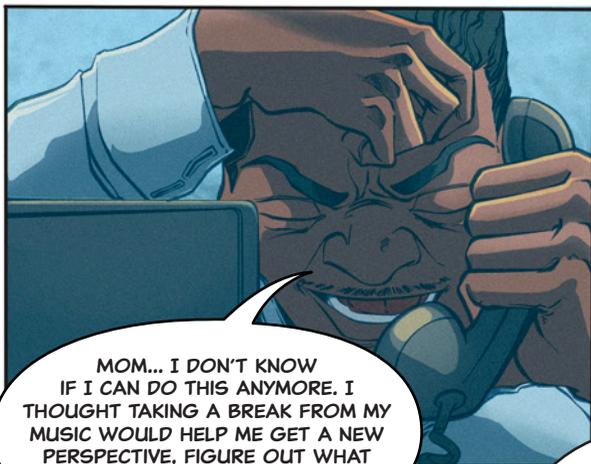
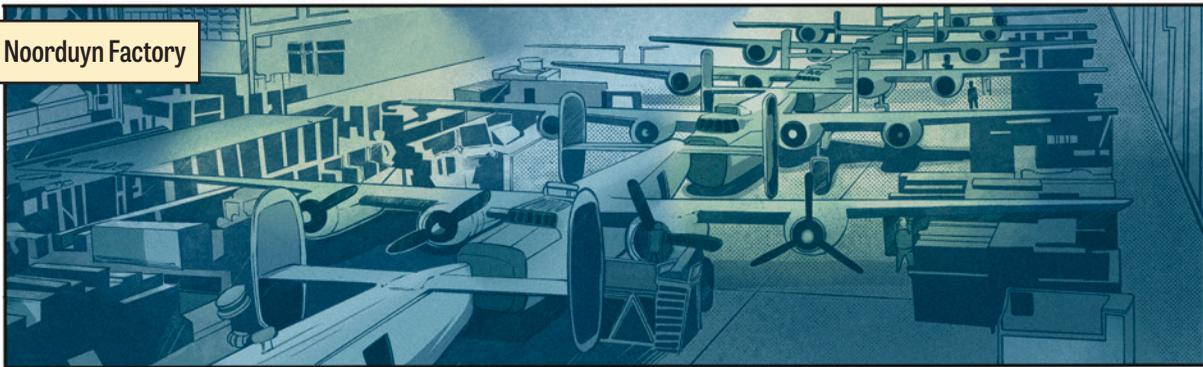


YOU CAN'T JUST BECOME ANY OLD PIANO PLAYER. YOU MUST PROMISE TO BECOME *THE BEST*. THE GREATEST JAZZ PIANIST IN THE WORLD.

I WON'T LET YOU DOWN.



Noorduyn Factory



I KNOW IT'S HARD. BUT REMEMBER WHY YOU STARTED THIS JOURNEY. YOU HAVE A GIFT, AND IT'S WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

MOM... I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO THIS ANYMORE. I THOUGHT TAKING A BREAK FROM MY MUSIC WOULD HELP ME GET A NEW PERSPECTIVE, FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO NEXT. BUT THIS FACTORY JOB... IT'S KILLING ME.

KEEP PLAYING, KEEP PUSHING. OPPORTUNITIES WILL COME. YOU JUST HAVE TO BE READY FOR THEM. I BELIEVE IN YOU.



I'M READY.

YOU'RE RIGHT. THANKS, MOM.

Union United Church, Montreal, September 1944

DO YOU, OSCAR, TAKE LILLIAN TO BE YOUR LAWFULLY WEDDED WIFE?

I DO.

RCA Victor Canada, Montreal, April 1945

Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Kingston, 1946

Oscar Peterson

I Got Rhythm

The RCA Victor Recordings Vol. 1

Montreal 1945-1946

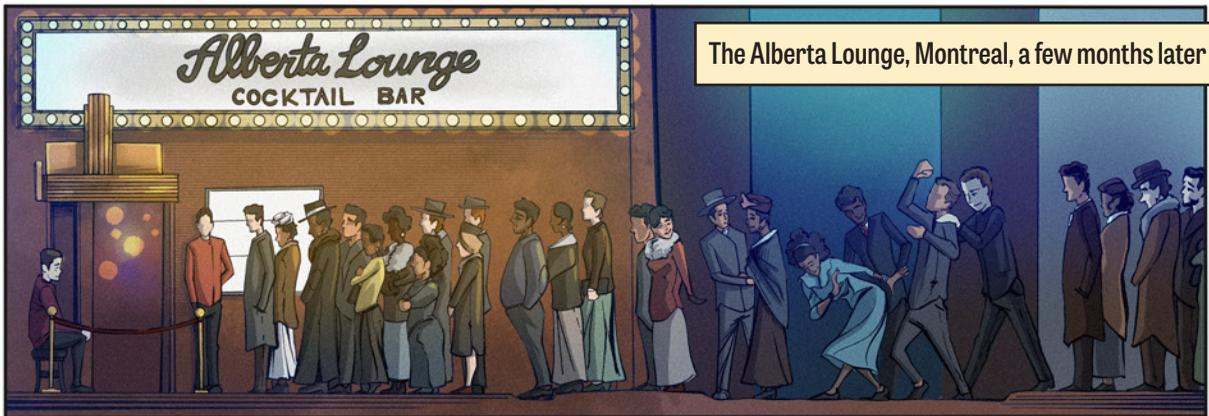
1947

Oscar played at Massey Hall, Toronto's iconic concert venue, in March 1946.

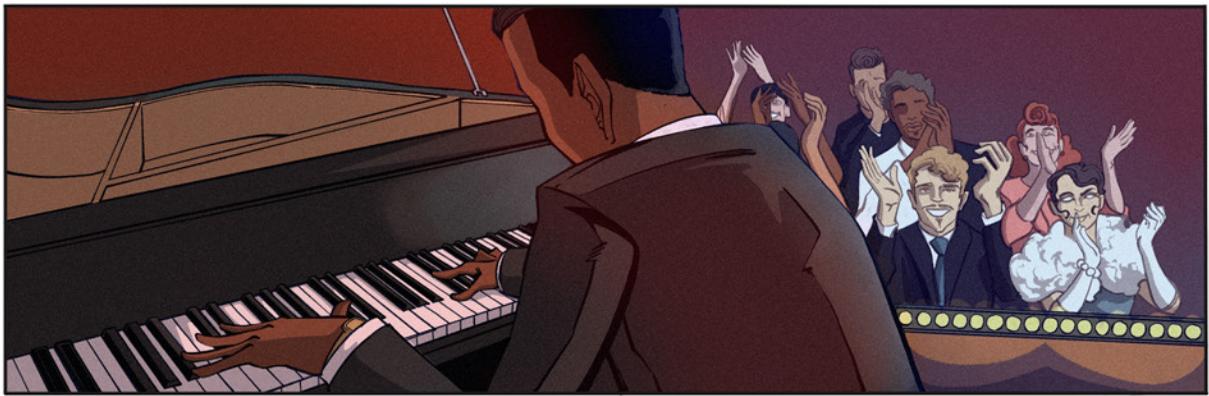
I'LL MISS YOU, OSCAR. WE ALL WILL. BUT THERE ARE SO MANY MORE OPPORTUNITIES OUT THERE, AND NOW'S THE TIME FOR YOU TO EXPLORE THEM.

I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU, JOHNNY. THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.

DON'T FORGET US WHEN YOU'VE MADE IT BIG, OK?



The Alberta Lounge, Montreal, a few months later





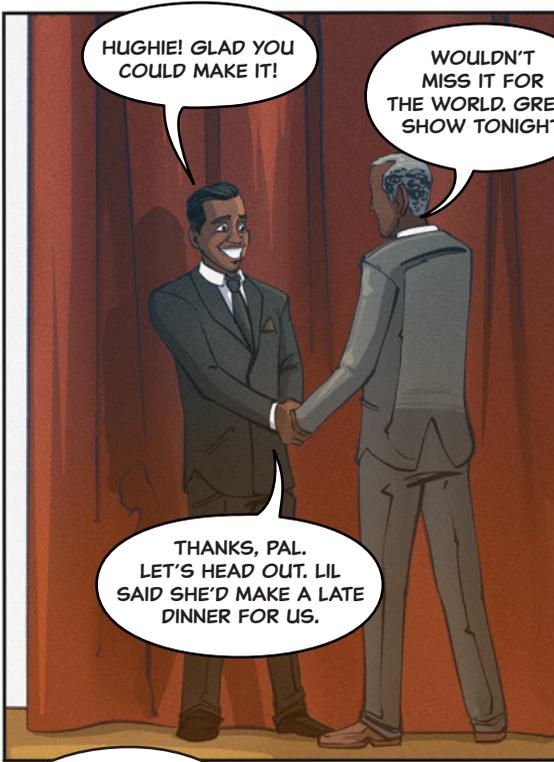
REASONS WHY  
YOU SHOULD GO  
TO THE

Alberta lounge

TO HEAR THE

Oscar Peterson  
—Trio—





HUGHIE! GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT!

WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD. GREAT SHOW TONIGHT.

THANKS, PAL. LET'S HEAD OUT. LIL SAID SHE'D MAKE A LATE DINNER FOR US.



A LOT OF MUSICIANS, ESPECIALLY BLACK ONES, THEY THINK IT'S ENOUGH TO BE GREAT.

IT'S NOT?

NOT EVEN CLOSE. FIRST, EVERY BLACK MUSICIAN MUST BE ABLE TO READ ANY KIND OF MUSIC, NO MATTER THE STYLE. IF WE WANT THESE ORCHESTRA CHAIRS, WE HAVE TO DO WHAT THE WHITE MAN CAN.



SECOND, AND THIS IS IMPORTANT, THE ONLY CRAVING YOU SHOULD HAVE IS FOR THE MUSIC. YOU CAN'T HAVE COMPETING INTERESTS OR ADDICTIONS.

THE ROAD AHEAD IS TOUGH. YOU NEED YOUR WITS ABOUT YOU TO OUTLAST THE OBSTACLES.

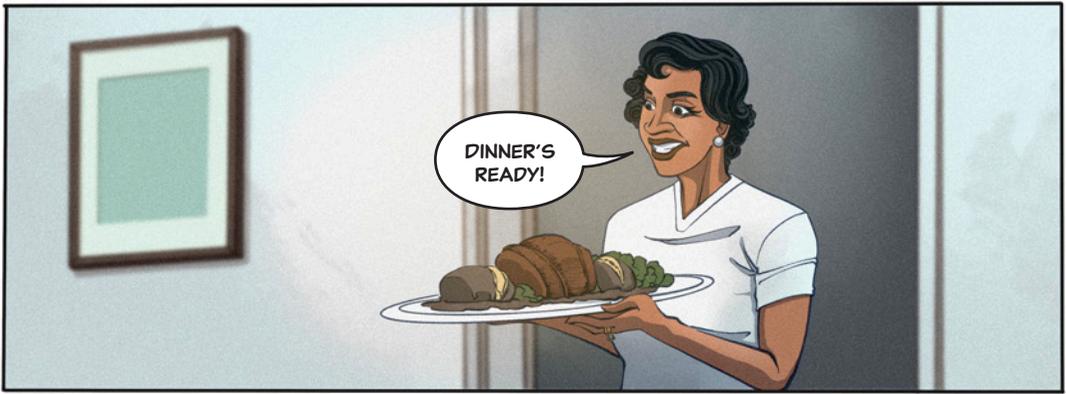


OUTLAST?

YES, BECAUSE THE SYSTEM WON'T BEND FOR US. WE HAVE TO BREAK THROUGH IT WITH OUR TALENT AND TENACITY.



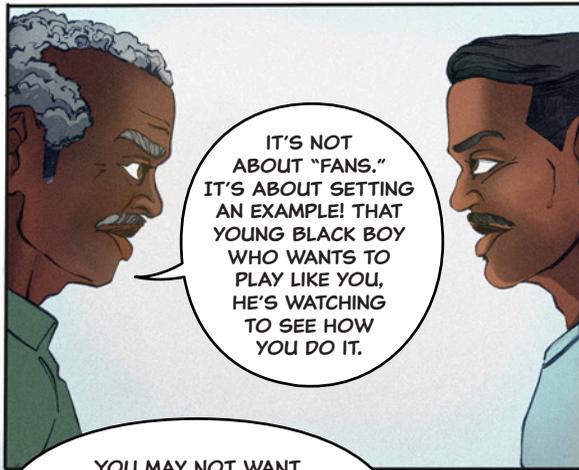
YOU'VE GOT THE TALENT, OP. NOW, LET'S MAKE SURE YOU'VE GOT THE GRIT TO MATCH.



DINNER'S READY!



HUGHIE, I JUST WANT TO PLAY. IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH THE CRITICS, LET ALONE TO THINK ABOUT HOW FANS PERCEIVE ME...



IT'S NOT ABOUT "FANS." IT'S ABOUT SETTING AN EXAMPLE! THAT YOUNG BLACK BOY WHO WANTS TO PLAY LIKE YOU, HE'S WATCHING TO SEE HOW YOU DO IT.

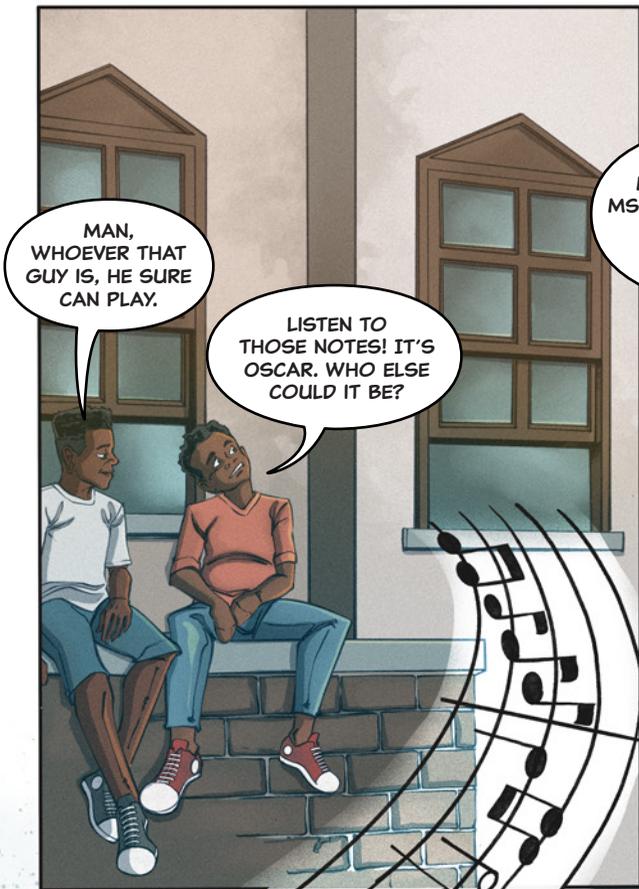


YOU MAY NOT WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT, BUT WHEN YOU GET UP ON THAT STAGE, IT'S NOT JUST THE AUDIENCE THAT'S WATCHING. IT'S THE WHOLE COMMUNITY. *OUR* COMMUNITY.



SO... I HAVE TO BE PERFECT?

NOBODY SAID BE PERFECT. JUST BE TRUE TO THE MUSIC, AND YOURSELF. THE REST WILL FOLLOW.



MAN, WHOEVER THAT GUY IS, HE SURE CAN PLAY.

LISTEN TO THOSE NOTES! IT'S OSCAR. WHO ELSE COULD IT BE?

HEY, OP! MY NAME'S OLIVER, MS. JONES' SON. I PLAY PIANO TOO! HOW DO I GET TO BE LIKE YOU?

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, AND PRACTICE SOME MORE. THEN, IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO DO, ASK YOURSELF, 'DO I WANT IT MORE THAN THE MUSIC?'

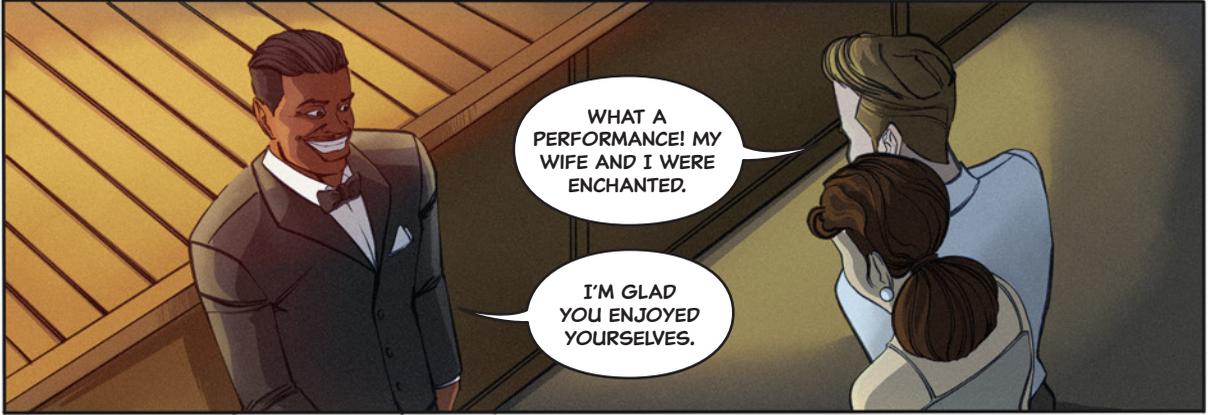
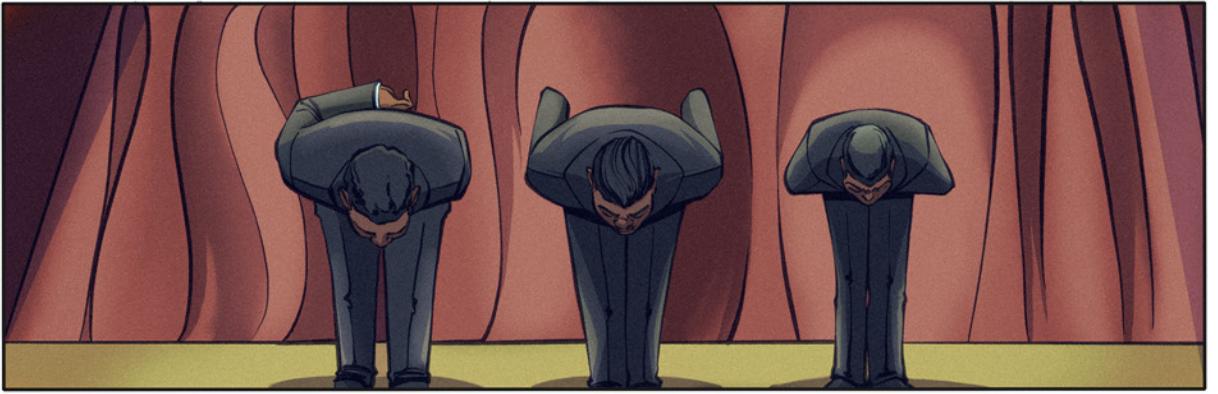
SO, PLAYING BASEBALL, HOCKEY...

FORGET ABOUT ALL THAT. ONLY THE MUSIC MATTERS.



BUT MOST OF ALL, REMEMBER THAT IT'S ABOUT PLAYING WITH HEART. MAKE EVERY NOTE COUNT.

YOU GOT IT, OP. I WILL.



I DON'T SHAKE HANDS WITH YOU FOLK.

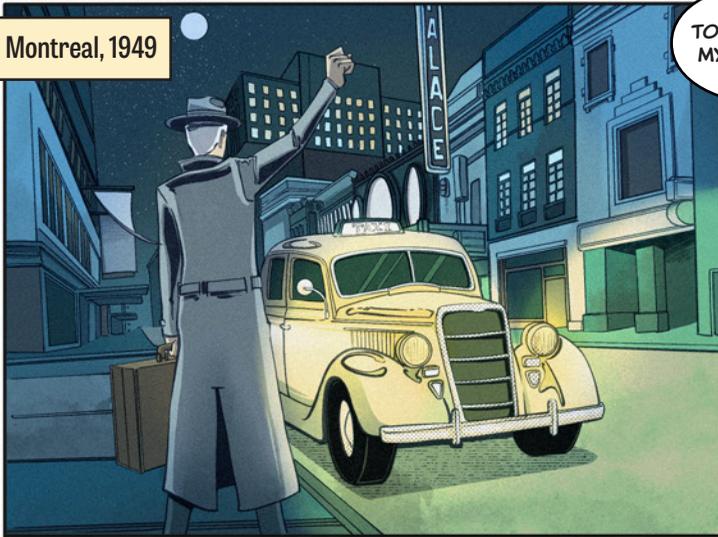




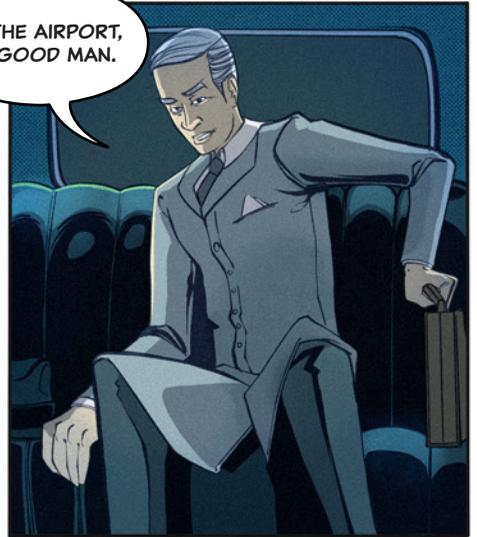
THE SAME HANDS  
THAT AMAZE PEOPLE,  
BLACK AND WHITE, AREN'T  
WORTH ANYTHING ONCE  
THEY STOP TOUCHING  
THE KEYS...



Montreal, 1949



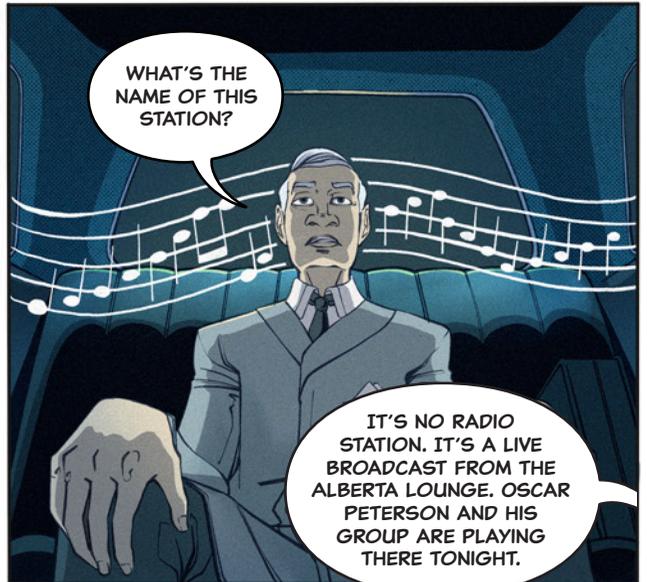
TO THE AIRPORT,  
MY GOOD MAN.



RIGHT  
AWAY, SIR.



WHAT'S THE  
NAME OF THIS  
STATION?

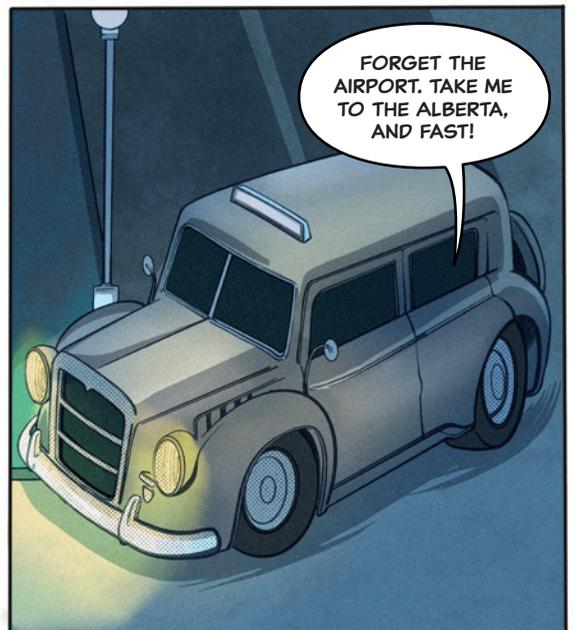


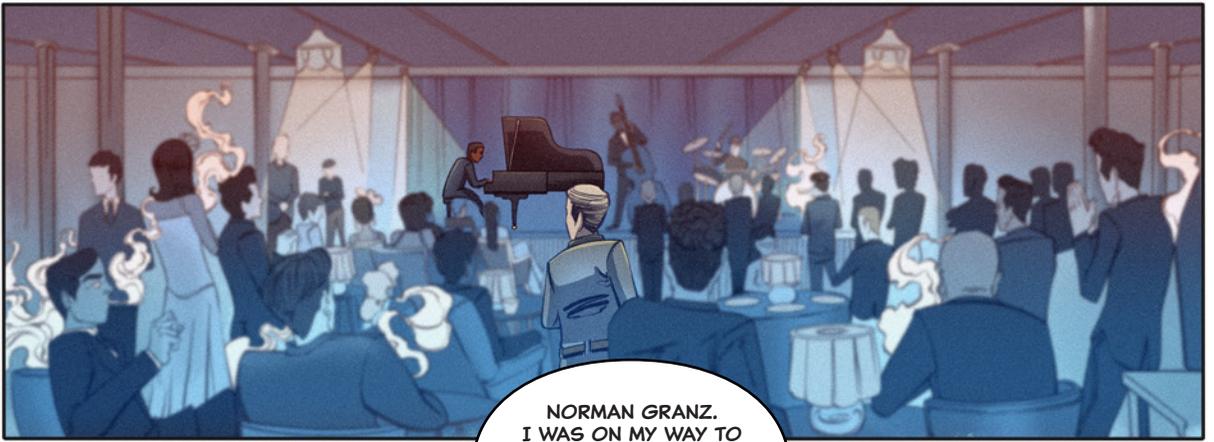
IT'S NO RADIO  
STATION. IT'S A LIVE  
BROADCAST FROM THE  
ALBERTA LOUNGE. OSCAR  
PETERSON AND HIS  
GROUP ARE PLAYING  
THERE TONIGHT.

THEY'RE LIVE?  
I COULD HAVE  
SWORN THIS WAS  
A RECORDING.



FORGET THE  
AIRPORT. TAKE ME  
TO THE ALBERTA,  
AND FAST!





NORMAN GRANZ.  
I WAS ON MY WAY TO  
CATCH A FLIGHT WHEN  
YOUR MUSIC HOOKED ME  
ON THE RADIO. I HAD TO  
SEE THE MAGIC LIVE.



WELL, I'M  
HONOURED  
YOU MADE IT,  
MR. GRANZ.

NORMAN. CALL  
ME NORMAN.

HOW ABOUT  
JOINING ME AT MY  
CONCERT IN NEW YORK?  
EVER HEARD OF JAZZ AT  
THE PHILHARMONIC?



OF COURSE  
I HAVE. JATP  
IS LEGENDARY!  
BUT...

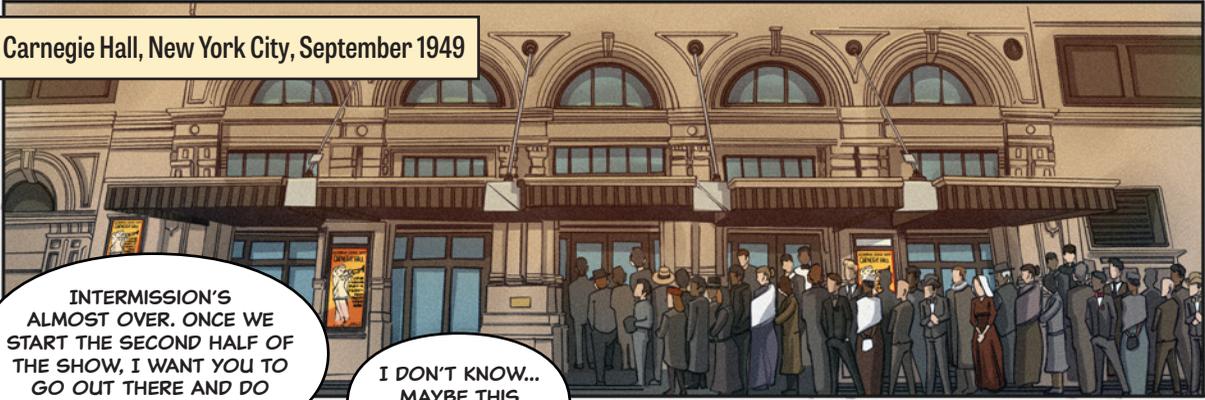
YOU SIMPLY  
MUST JOIN US! IT'LL  
BE YOUR AMERICAN  
DEBUT!



I APPRECIATE IT,  
NORMAN, BUT NEW YORK...  
THAT'S THE BIG LEAGUES.  
I WAS HOPING TO START A  
BIT SMALLER. WORK MY  
WAY UP...

DON'T WORRY  
ABOUT THAT. JUST  
SHOW UP AND GIVE IT  
YOUR BEST SHOT. LEAVE  
THE REST TO ME.

Carnegie Hall, New York City, September 1949

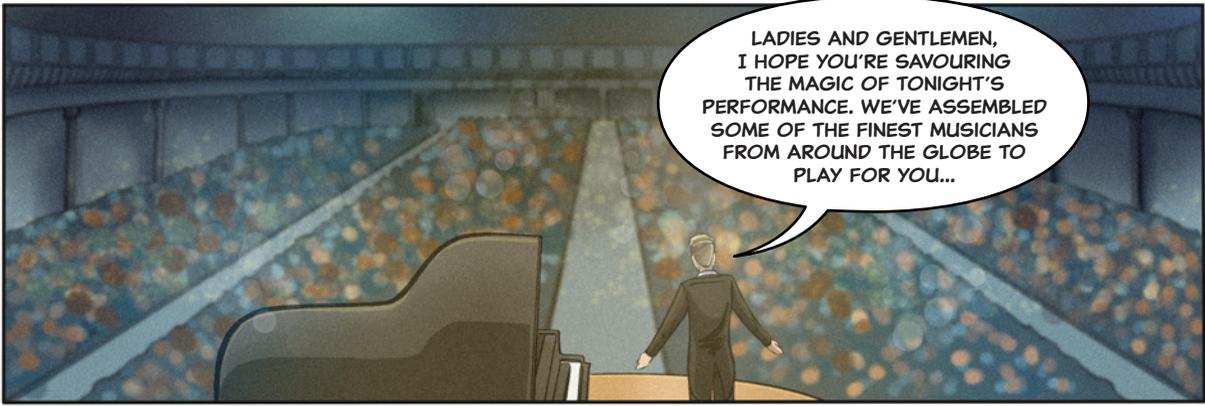


INTERMISSION'S ALMOST OVER. ONCE WE START THE SECOND HALF OF THE SHOW, I WANT YOU TO GO OUT THERE AND DO YOUR THING.

I DON'T KNOW... MAYBE THIS WASN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA.



YOU WON'T BE ALONE, RAY BROWN WILL BE PLAYING WITH YOU. YOU BELONG ON THAT STAGE, OSCAR. I KNOW IT, YOU KNOW IT. NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE THE REST OF THE WORLD SEE THAT TOO.



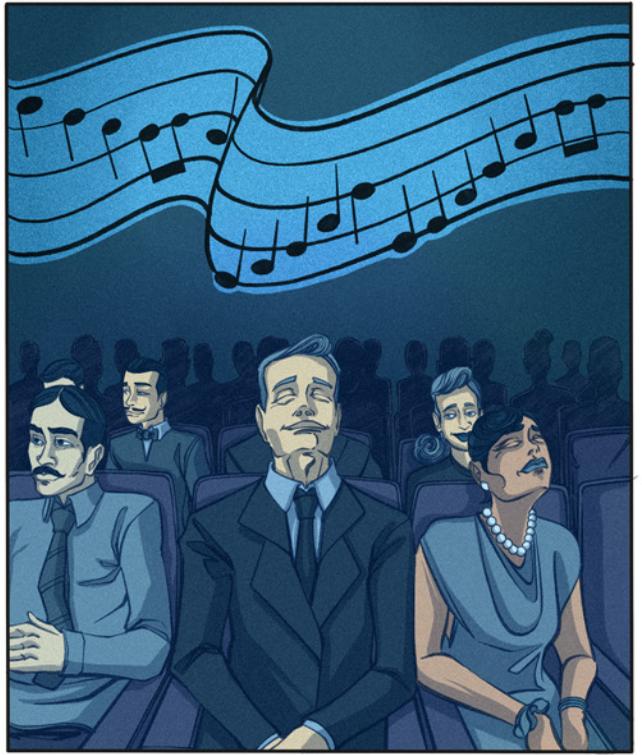
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I HOPE YOU'RE SAVOURING THE MAGIC OF TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE. WE'VE ASSEMBLED SOME OF THE FINEST MUSICIANS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE TO PLAY FOR YOU...



...AND HERE AMONG US IS A PRODIGIOUS TALENT I SIMPLY HAD TO SHARE WITH YOU ALL.



PLEASE WELCOME ONE OF THE BRIGHTEST STARS IN THE JAZZ CONSTELLATION, ALL THE WAY FROM CANADA... OSCAR PETERSON!



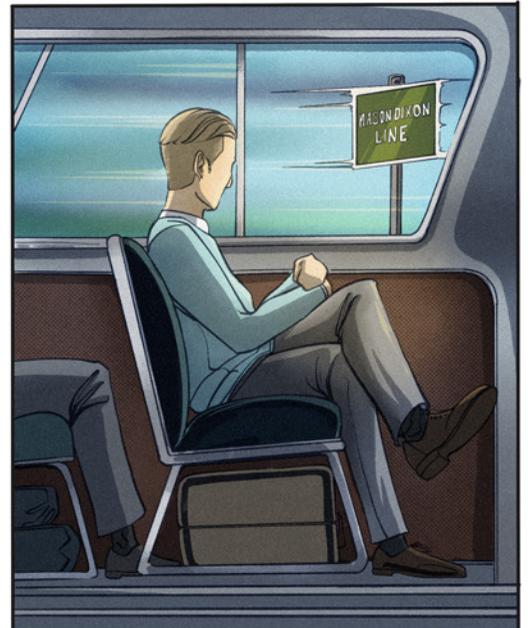


**WITH**  
**Ella Fitzgerald**  
**Stan Getz**  
**Dizzy Gillespie**  
**Roy Eldridge**  
**and The Oscar Peterson Trio**

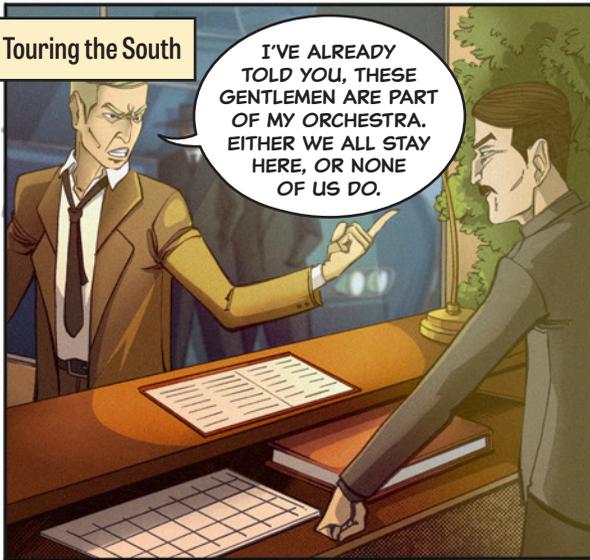
1950s



By this time, Oscar was a touring member of JATP. Norman Granz acted as his manager and helped Oscar build his first big trio, featuring Herb Ellis and Ray Brown.



Touring the South



I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU, THESE GENTLEMEN ARE PART OF MY ORCHESTRA. EITHER WE ALL STAY HERE, OR NONE OF US DO.



LOOK, I UNDERSTAND, BUT WE HAVE RULES TO FOLLOW.



I'LL NEVER SET FOOT IN THIS DUMP AGAIN. YOU JUST LOST YOURSELF A LOT OF BUSINESS!



LET'S GO. WE'LL FIND SOMEWHERE ELSE.



I GUESS THIS WILL HAVE TO DO...



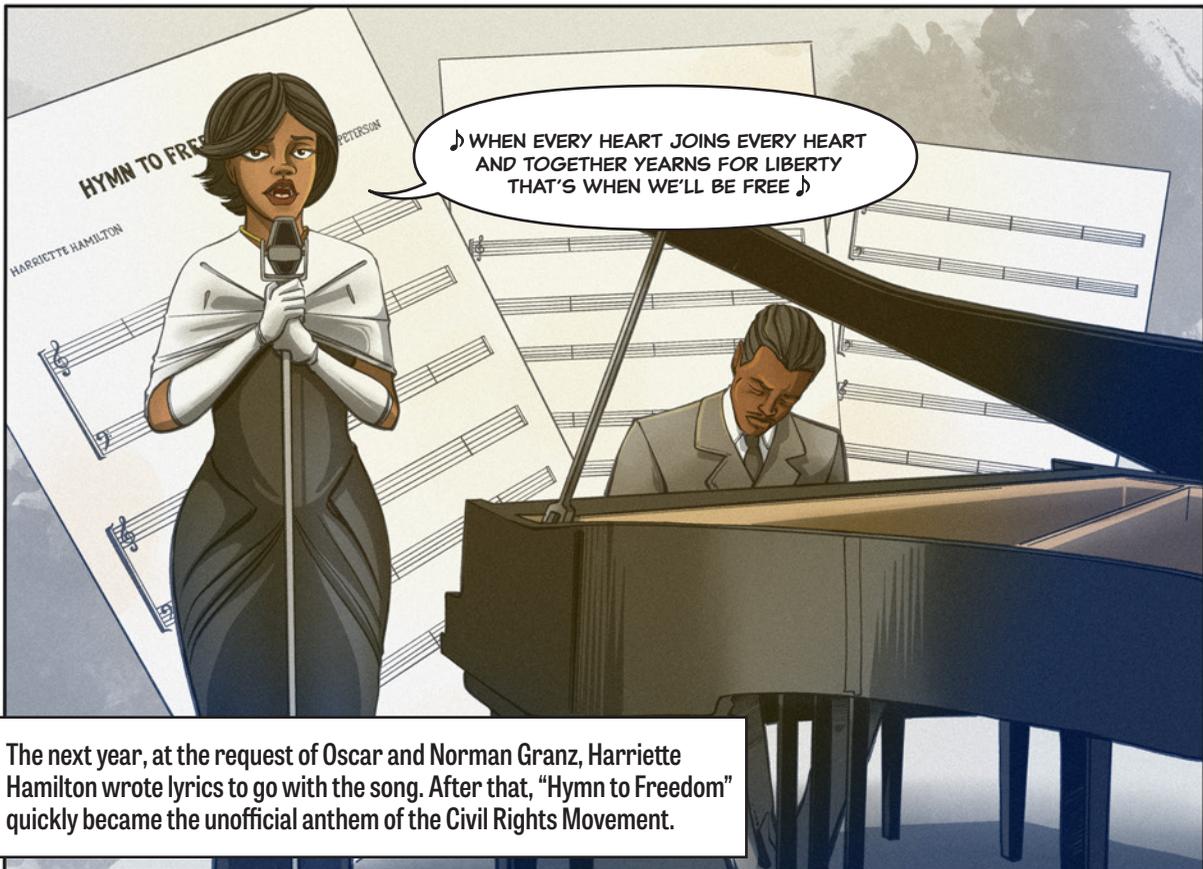




Several weeks later



In December of 1962, Oscar wrote and recorded a song called "Hymn to Freedom." It was a musical salute to the efforts of the Civil Rights Movement, Martin Luther King Jr., and the fight for freedom and equality.



The next year, at the request of Oscar and Norman Granz, Harriette Hamilton wrote lyrics to go with the song. After that, "Hymn to Freedom" quickly became the unofficial anthem of the Civil Rights Movement.



PARIS ET SES MERVEILLES  
La place Ed. Scazland, la rue Soufflot  
Paris 17801 (0787-17801).



Dear Daisy  
How's the teaching going? Is  
Oliver Jones still taking lessons from you? I've heard  
that kid plays and he certainly has potential.  
If anyone can bring that out in him, it's you.  
I saw the Eiffel tower today. It was  
breathtaking. Paris is such a beautiful city. I know  
you'd love it here.

Oscar

Photo Jean TRIMBOLI

Daisy



Maak's LESCONTRE 38, rue Saxe-Coburg de la Belgique, Paris  
15, 81, 81, imprimé en "Pays". Reproduction interdite.



My dearest Lil, Lynn, Sharon, Jay, Oscar, & Norman  
I hope you're all doing well. Kids, don't be giving  
me another, the much trouble now! Sharon, how did  
your math test go? I know you were worried  
about it. Just a few more weeks until I'll be home.  
I can't wait to see everyone.  
I picked up a few souvenirs along  
with the last, a well known antique market  
here. You'd be amazed at some of the things they sell  
I hope to show you.

Oscar



GREETINGS  
U.S.A.  
THE PHOTOGRAPHIC GREETING CARD CO. LTD., LONDON

Lillian Peterson  
Toronto, Ontario



from Hawaii



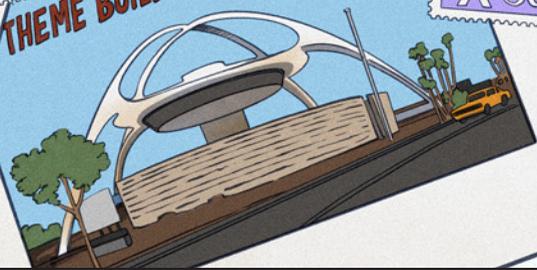
TOKYO HOTEL  
500 Airconditioned Rooms - Grill Room - Night Club  
Coffee House - Japanese Restaurant - Tea Lounge -  
2 Bars - Swimming Pool - Steam Bath - Shopping Arcade  
TELS Tokyo Tel. 035-5001

Mom and Dad  
I've taken so many photos  
in Japan already. The architecture  
is incredible. Looking forward to  
showing them to you when I'm back.

Love you both  
Oscar

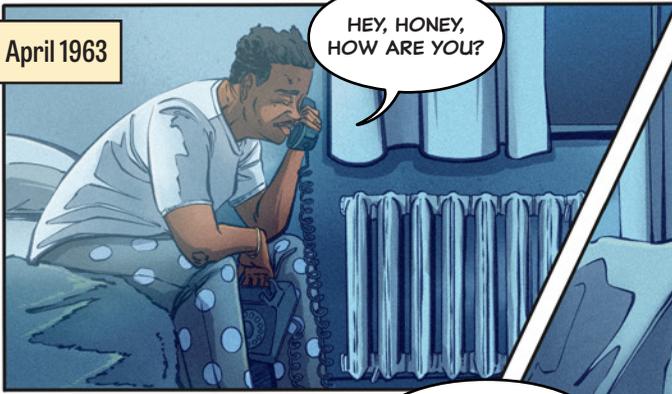
POST CARD  
TOKYO  
AIR MAIL

"THEME BUILDING" Los Angeles  
Internationale

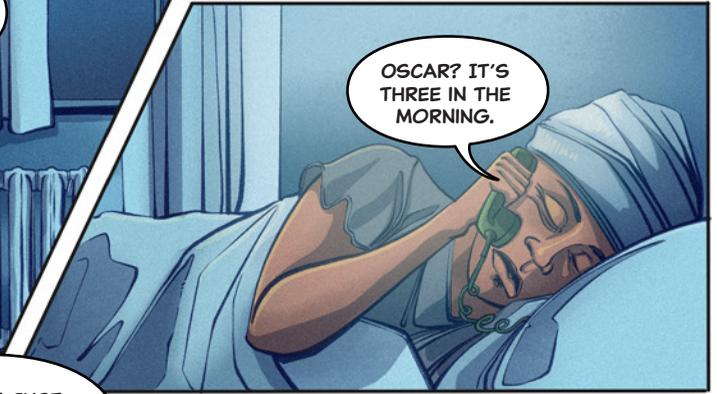


During his years with JATP, Oscar travelled all over North America, then started touring around the world. Life on the road often meant that he was away from his family for weeks or months at a time.

April 1963



HEY, HONEY,  
HOW ARE YOU?



OSCAR? IT'S  
THREE IN THE  
MORNING.



I KNOW, I JUST...  
WANTED TO HEAR  
YOUR VOICE. HOW IS  
EVERYONE?

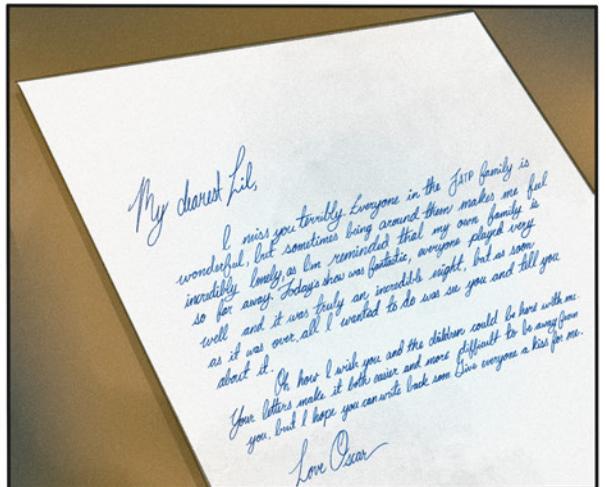


EVERYONE'S  
ASLEEP.

RIGHT... OK,  
I'LL LET YOU GET  
BACK TO IT.



December 1963



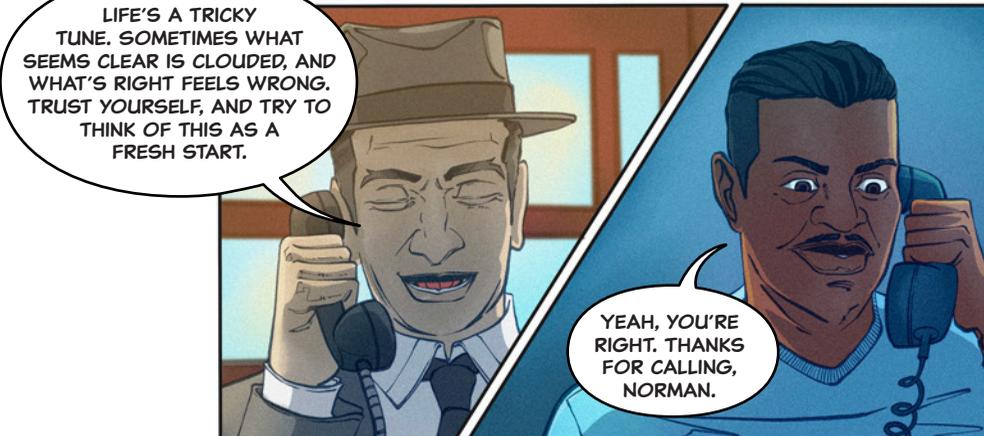
*My dearest Lil,*

I miss you terribly. Everyone in the Jim's family is wonderful, but sometimes being around them makes me feel so forlorn, so lonely as I'm reminded that my own family is well and it was truly an, incredible night, but as soon as it was over, all I wanted to do was see you and tell you about it.

Oh how I wish you and the children could be here with me. Your letters make it both easier and more difficult to be away from you, but I hope you can write back soon. Give everyone a kiss for me.

*Love Oscar*

One Year Later



LIFE'S A TRICKY TUNE. SOMETIMES WHAT SEEMS CLEAR IS CLOUDED, AND WHAT'S RIGHT FEELS WRONG. TRUST YOURSELF, AND TRY TO THINK OF THIS AS A FRESH START.

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. THANKS FOR CALLING, NORMAN.

1965

IT'S TIME FOR ME TO SETTLE DOWN. I'VE BEEN THINKING OF HEADING OUT TO CALIFORNIA. GET SOME OF THAT SUN AND SEA.

FIFTEEN YEARS TOGETHER, RAY. I COULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR A BETTER BASSIST. OR A BETTER FRIEND. GOOD LUCK OUT THERE.

GREAT SHOW TONIGHT. THE NEW TRIO'S REALLY MESHING WELL TOGETHER.

1968

BUT HEY... YOU EVER THINK OF GOING SOLO?

SOLO?

SOMETIMES THE FANS WANT TO HEAR YOU, OSCAR. JUST YOU.

GEE, I DON'T KNOW... I'VE NEVER PERFORMED ON MY OWN BEFORE.

GIVE IT A SHOT. YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN.

Carnegie Hall, New York City, July 6, 1972

AND NOW, THE STAR OF THE EVENING, MR. OSCAR PETERSON!

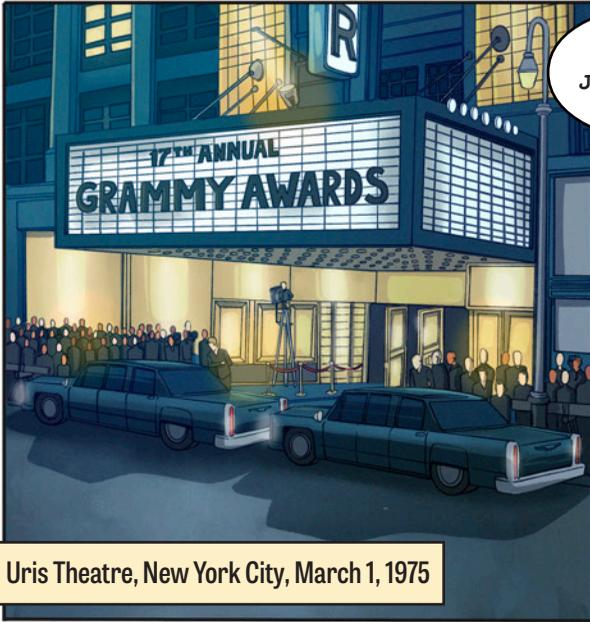
CLAP!  
CLAP!  
CLAP!

BRAVO!  
CLAP!

BRAVO!

CLAP!  
CLAP!

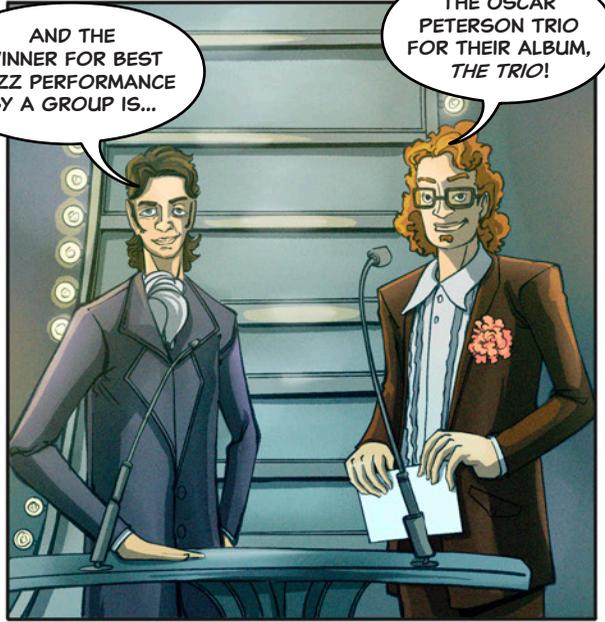
For the rest of his career, Oscar would do both solo and group work.



Uris Theatre, New York City, March 1, 1975

AND THE WINNER FOR BEST JAZZ PERFORMANCE BY A GROUP IS...

THE OSCAR PETERSON TRIO FOR THEIR ALBUM, *THE TRIO!*



I'M HONOURED. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

This was not the first time Oscar was nominated for a Grammy, but it would be his first win.

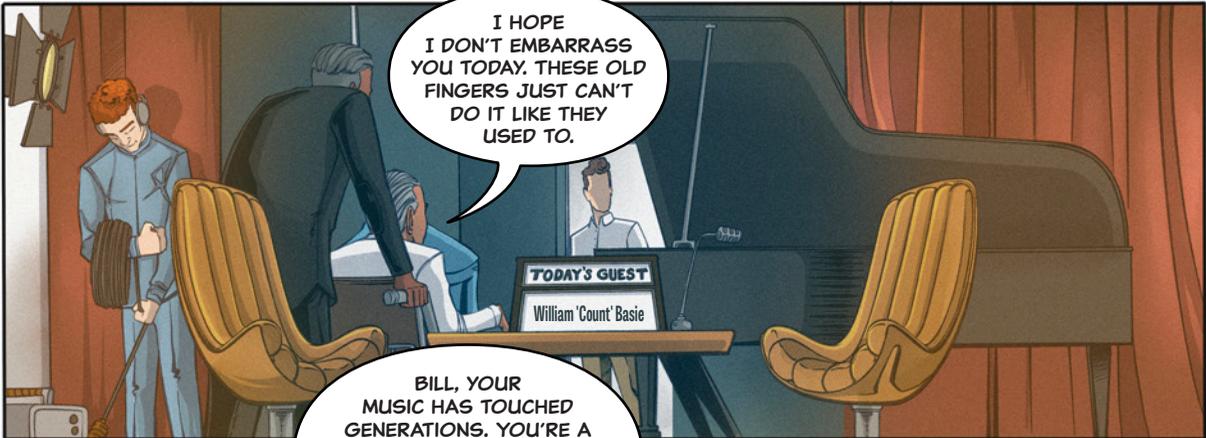




I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THE BBC WANTED ME TO HOST A TV SHOW.

DON'T BE NERVOUS, OP. YOU KNOW THE GUESTS, YOU KNOW THE MUSIC. YOU'LL DO GREAT.

BBC Studios, London, 1976

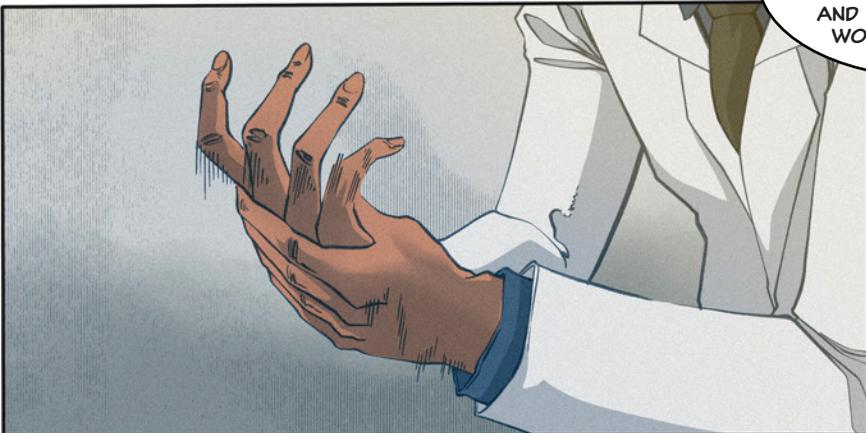


I HOPE I DON'T EMBARRASS YOU TODAY. THESE OLD FINGERS JUST CAN'T DO IT LIKE THEY USED TO.

BILL, YOUR MUSIC HAS TOUCHED GENERATIONS. YOU'RE A LEGEND, AND TODAY IS ABOUT CELEBRATING YOUR LEGACY. SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING, JUST BE YOURSELF.



YOU KNOW, I GET REAL SAD SOMETIMES, THINKING ABOUT THE THINGS THESE HANDS COULD DO. AND NOW... THEY JUST WON'T COOPERATE.



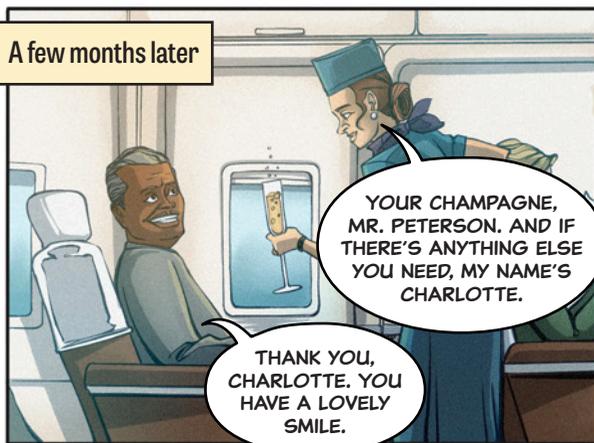
Several weeks later



♪ THEY SAY THAT FALLING IN LOVE IS WONDERFUL... ♪

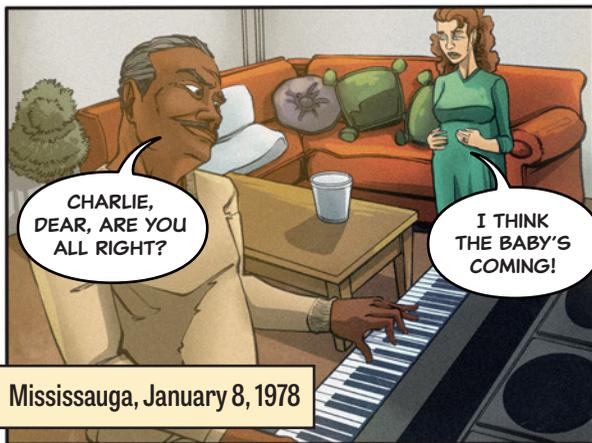


A few months later



YOUR CHAMPAGNE, MR. PETERSON. AND IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE YOU NEED, MY NAME'S CHARLOTTE.

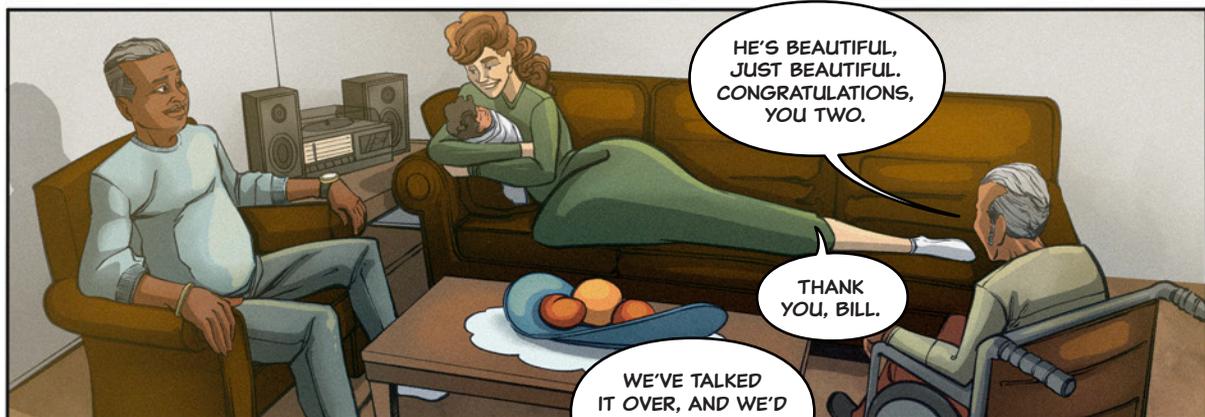
THANK YOU, CHARLOTTE. YOU HAVE A LOVELY SMILE.



CHARLIE, DEAR, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I THINK THE BABY'S COMING!

Mississauga, January 8, 1978



HE'S BEAUTIFUL, JUST BEAUTIFUL. CONGRATULATIONS, YOU TWO.

THANK YOU, BILL.

WE'VE TALKED IT OVER, AND WE'D LIKE YOU TO BE HIS GODFATHER.



WELL, I'LL BE. I'M HONOURED.

THANKS AGAIN FOR COMING, BILL. I'LL SEE YOU OUT.

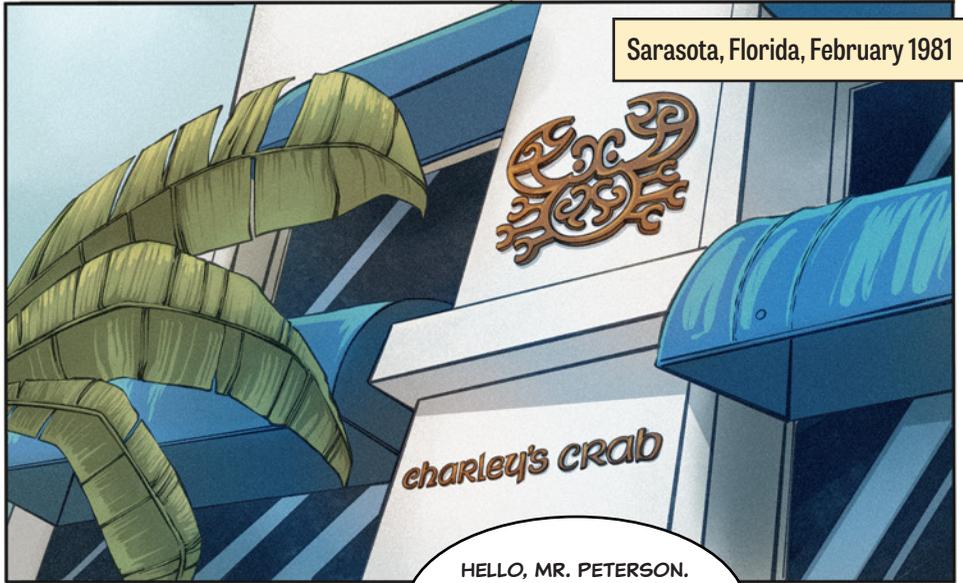
JOEL, I WANT YOU TO HEAR THIS. I WAS WORKING ON IT RIGHT BEFORE YOU WERE BORN. I THINK I'LL CALL IT "NIGHT CHILD."

A few years later

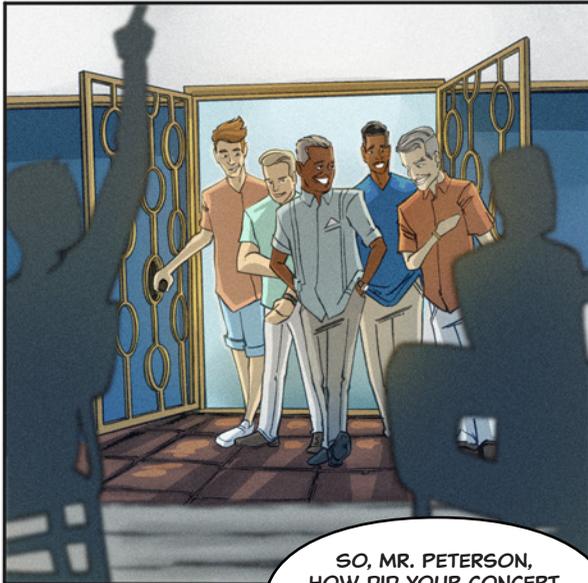
CLAP!  
CLAP!  
CLAP!

BRAVO!  
CLAP!

Sarasota, Florida, February 1981

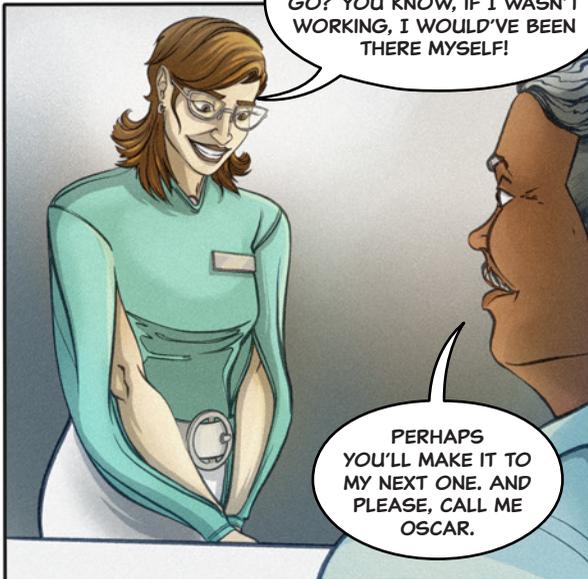


HELLO, MR. PETERSON.  
IT'S AN HONOUR TO HAVE  
YOU DINING WITH US. MY  
NAME IS KELLY, AND I MUST  
SAY, I'M A BIG FAN.

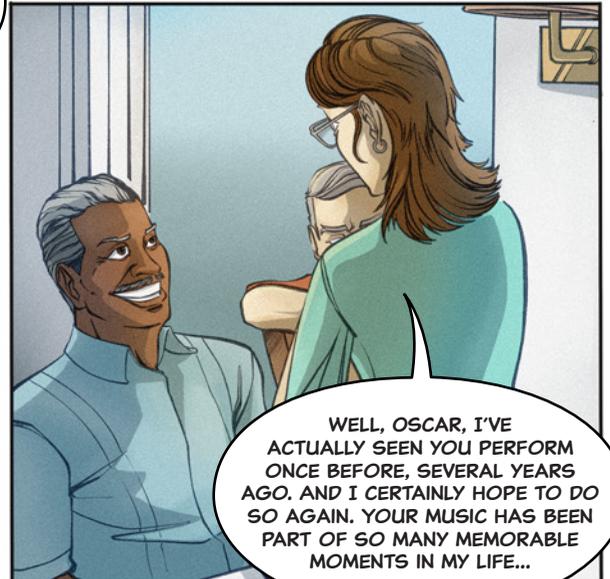


THANK YOU,  
KELLY. IT'S A  
PLEASURE TO MEET  
YOU AS WELL.

SO, MR. PETERSON,  
HOW DID YOUR CONCERT  
GO? YOU KNOW, IF I WASN'T  
WORKING, I WOULD'VE BEEN  
THERE MYSELF!

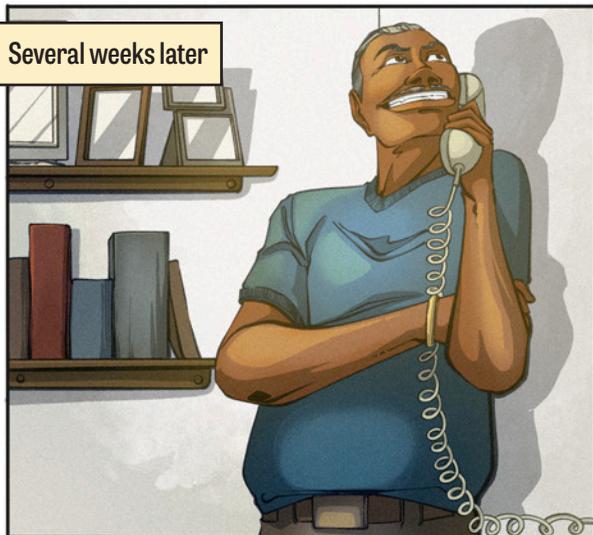


PERHAPS  
YOU'LL MAKE IT TO  
MY NEXT ONE. AND  
PLEASE, CALL ME  
OSCAR.

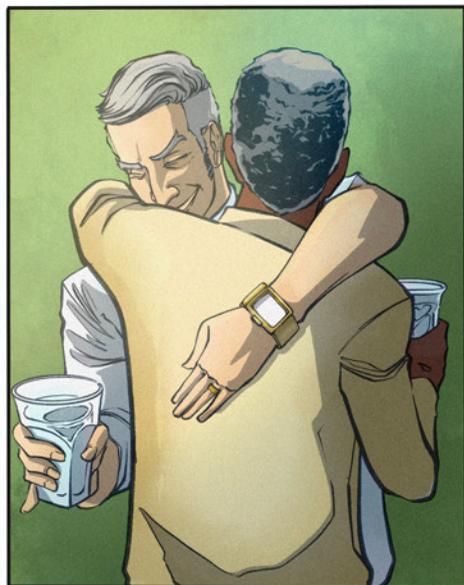
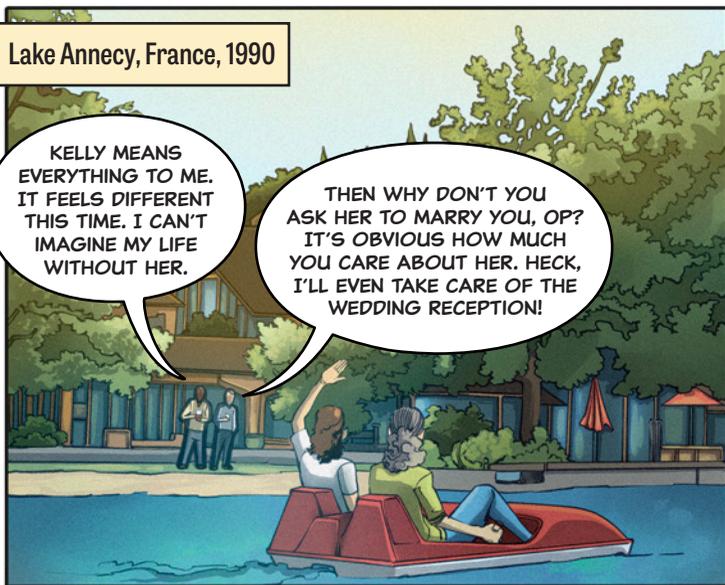


WELL, OSCAR, I'VE  
ACTUALLY SEEN YOU PERFORM  
ONCE BEFORE, SEVERAL YEARS  
AGO. AND I CERTAINLY HOPE TO DO  
SO AGAIN. YOUR MUSIC HAS BEEN  
PART OF SO MANY MEMORABLE  
MOMENTS IN MY LIFE...

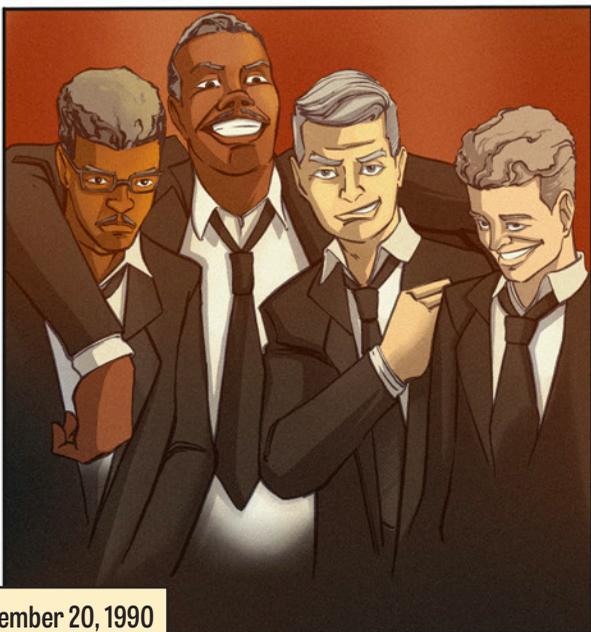
Several weeks later



Lake Annecy, France, 1990



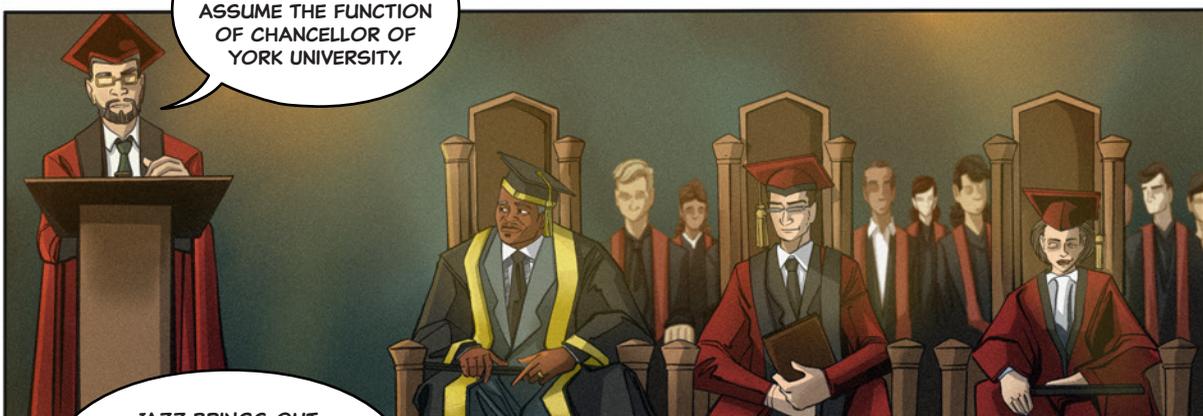
Los Angeles, December 20, 1990



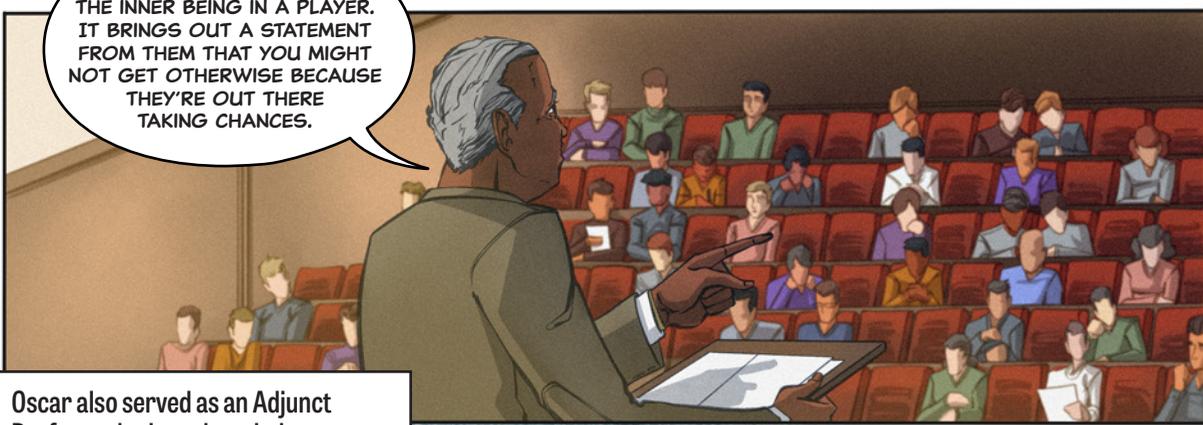
York University, Toronto, September 13, 1991



OSCAR PETERSON,  
YOU ARE NOW TO  
ASSUME THE FUNCTION  
OF CHANCELLOR OF  
YORK UNIVERSITY.



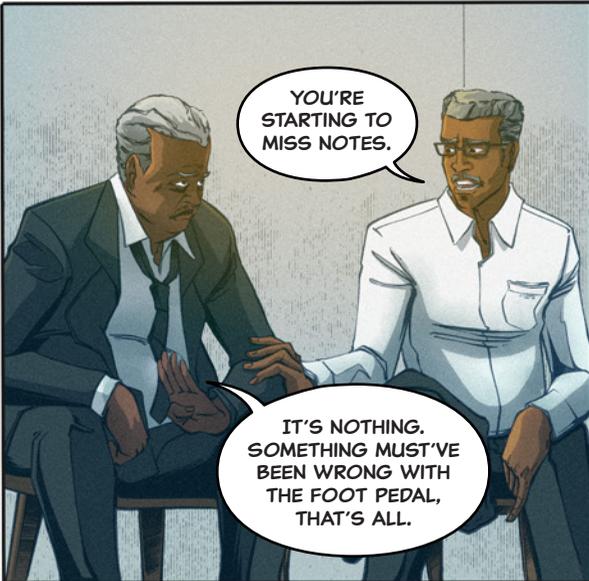
JAZZ BRINGS OUT  
THE INNER BEING IN A PLAYER.  
IT BRINGS OUT A STATEMENT  
FROM THEM THAT YOU MIGHT  
NOT GET OTHERWISE BECAUSE  
THEY'RE OUT THERE  
TAKING CHANCES.

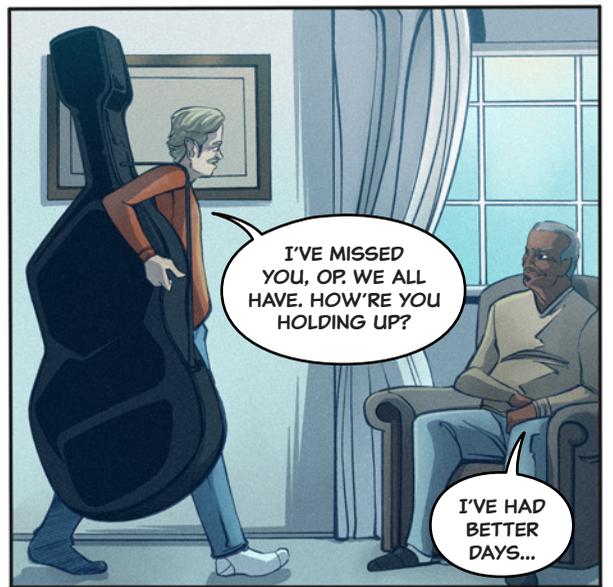
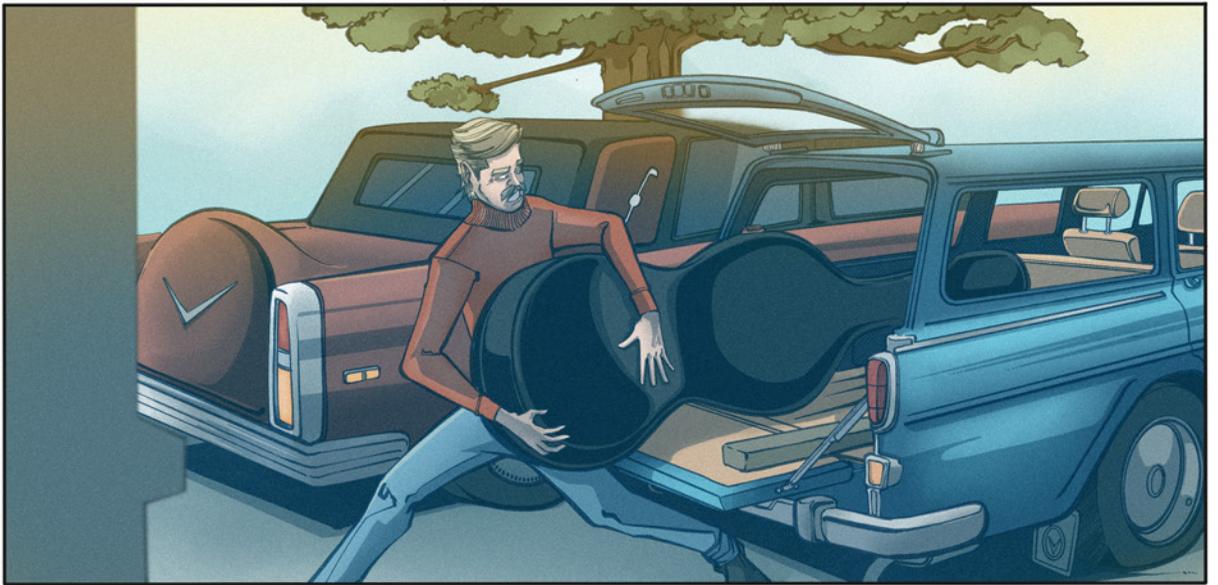


Oscar also served as an Adjunct  
Professor in the university's  
Department of Music for many years.

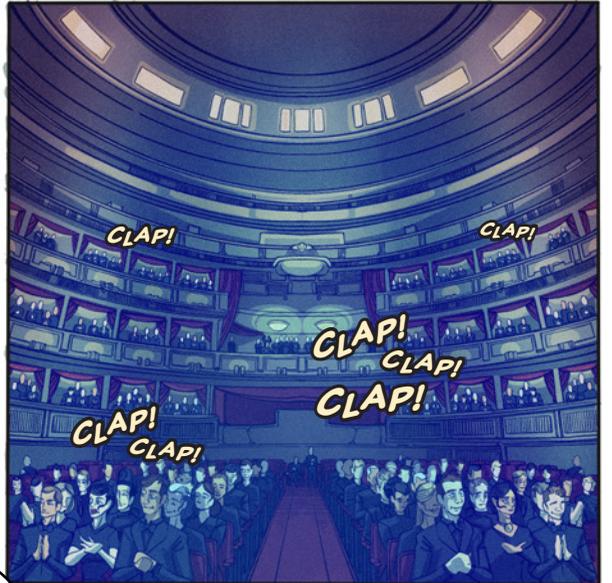
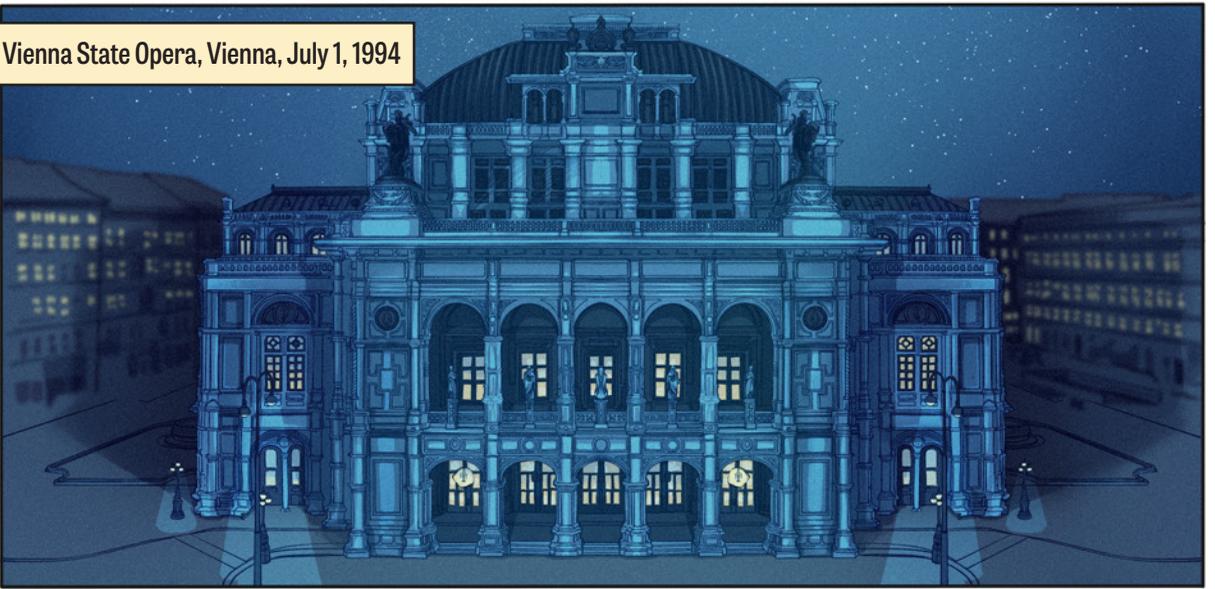


The Blue Note, New York City, May 1993





Vienna State Opera, Vienna, July 1, 1994



I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, OP! YOU STILL MAKE THAT PIANO SING.



THANKS, NORMAN. GLAD YOU COULD BE HERE.



New York City, 1997

Tokyo, 1999

Toronto, 2002

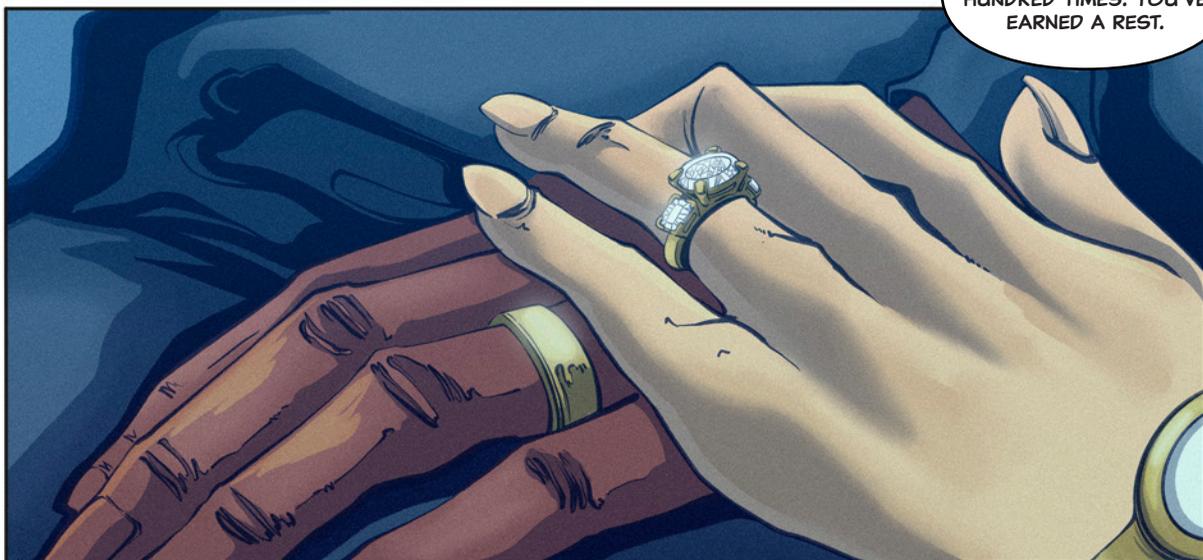
Mississauga, 2005

OSCAR PETERSON  
PUBLIC SCHOOL

CANADA

On Oscar's 80th birthday, a commemorative stamp was issued by Canada Post.

Mississauga, 2006



Memories of Oscar Peterson,  
August 15, 1925 - December 23, 2007

Oscar Peterson left an indelible mark on the arts community and the world at large; his exceptional creativity and immense talent crossed boundaries and continues to inspire generation after generation.



Ottawa, June 30, 2010: This statue was unveiled by Queen Elizabeth II outside the National Arts Centre, where Oscar performed many times during his career.



Montreal, September 15, 2011:  
Artist Gene Pendon painted this  
mural in the neighbourhood of Little  
Burgundy, where Oscar was born.

Toronto, September 21, 2013: Canada's Walk of Fame celebrates  
the achievements of notable Canadians who've had a significant  
influence on the country's cultural heritage.



Washington, January 20, 2009:  
The San Francisco Boys and Girls  
Chorus performed "Hymn to Freedom"  
at the inauguration of Barack Obama.





I'M A JAZZ  
PIANIST. THAT'S ALL  
I EVER WANTED  
TO BE.



**TEACH**MEDIA