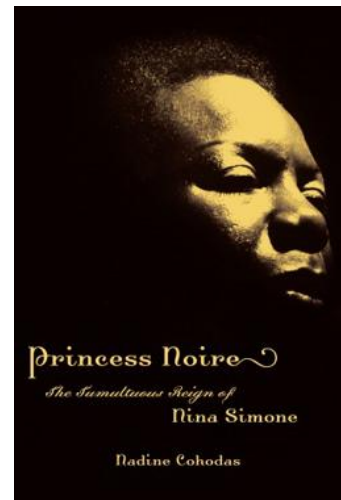
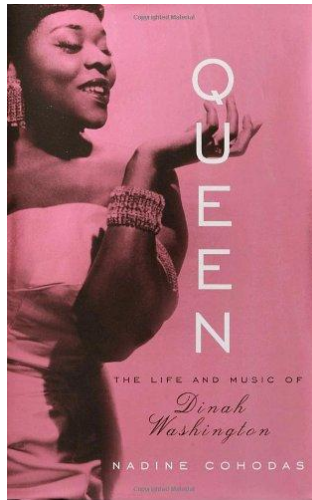


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**DECEMBER 20, 2010**



Nadine Cohodas  
Credit: Jason Miccolo Johnson



## **FREE LISTENING PARTY WITH WRITER NADINE COHODAS JANUARY 20**

***Featuring Rare Video Footage of Dinah Washington and  
Nina Simone***

**Who/What:**

Jazz at Lincoln Center hosts its seventh Listening Party of the 2010-11 season with author **Nadine Cohodas**, who will present rare video footage of vocal legends Dinah Washington and Nina Simone. Nadine Cohodas is the author of the biographies *Queen: The Life and Music of Dinah Washington* and *Princess Noire: The Tumultuous Reign of Nina Simone*. The host of the Listening Party series is Jazz at Lincoln Center's Ken Druker.

For more information on this series visit [jalc.org/listeningparty](http://jalc.org/listeningparty).

**When:**

Thursday, January 20, 2010, 7pm.

**Where:**

Nesuhi Ertegun Jazz Hall of Fame at Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center, Broadway at 60<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY.

**How:**

Event is free and seating is open to the public on a first come, first served basis. Doors open at 6:30pm.

**About:*****Queen:***

*Queen* is the landmark biography of the brief, intensely lived life and soulful music of the great Dinah Washington. A gospel star at fifteen, she was discovered by jazz great Lionel Hampton at eighteen, and for the rest of her life was on the road, playing clubs, or singing in the studio—making music one way or another. Washington's tart and heartfelt voice quickly became her trademark; she was a distinctive stylist, crossing over from the "race" music category to the pop and jazz charts. Known in her day as Queen of the Blues and Queen of the Juke Boxes, Washington was regarded as that rare "first take" artist, her studio recordings reflecting the same passionate energy she brought to the stage. As Nadine Cohodas shows us, Washington suffered her share of heartbreak in her personal life, but she thrived on the growing audience response that greeted her signature tunes: "What a Diff'rence a Day Makes," "Evil Gal Blues," and "Baby (You've Got What It Takes)," with Brook Benton. She made every song she sang her own. Washington lives large in these pages, with her seven marriages; her penchant for clothes, cars, furs, and diets; and her famously feisty personality—testy one moment and generous the next. This biography, meticulously researched and gracefully written, is the first to draw on extensive interviews with family members and newly discovered documents. It is a revelation of Washington's work and her life. Cohodas captures the Queen in all her contradictions, and we hear in this book the voice of a natural star, born to entertain and to be loved.

***Princess Noire:***

*Princess Noire* is a complete account of the triumphs and difficulties of the brilliant and high-tempered Nina Simone. Her distinctive voice and music occupy a singular place in the canon of American song. Tapping into newly unearthed material—including stories of family and career—Nadine Cohodas gives us a luminous portrait of the singer who was born Eunice Waymon in Tryon, North Carolina, in 1933, one of eight children in a proud black family. We see her as a prodigiously talented child who is trained in classical piano through the charitable auspices of a local white woman. We witness her devastating disappointment when she is rejected by the Curtis Institute of Music—a dream deferred that would forever shape her self-image as well as her music. Yet by 1959—now calling herself Nina Simone—she had sung New York City's venerable Town Hall and was on her way. As we watch Simone's exciting rise to stardom, Cohodas expertly weaves in the central factors of her life and career: her unique and provocative relationship with her audiences; her involvement in and contributions to the civil rights movement; her two marriages, including one of brief family contentment with police detective Andy Stroud, with whom she had her daughter, Lisa; the alienation from the United States that drove her to live abroad. Alongside these threads runs a darker one: Simone's increasing and sometimes baffling outbursts of rage and pain and her lifelong struggle to overcome a deep sense of personal injustice, which persisted even as she won international renown. *Princess Noire* is a fascinating story, well told and thoroughly documented with intimate photos—a treatment that captures the passions of Simone's life.

**Nadine Cohodas** is the author of several books about race, politics and music. Among her other books are: *And the Band Played Dixie; Strom Thurmond & The Politics of Southern Change* and *Spinning Blues Into Gold: The Chess Brothers and the Legendary Chess Records*.

**Sponsorship:**

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High resolution photo available upon request.

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