



Reading Room

▼ Paging through **Jazz Life** (Taschen), you can almost hear the brassy high notes of Dixieland, the soaring harmonies of gospel, the singular styles of Dinah Washington, Ornette Coleman, and Nina Simone.



Nina Simone,
Newport
Jazz Festival,
circa 1960.

Taken during a cross-country trip in 1960, William Claxton's pictures of amateurs and professionals at rehearsal and in performance, from a saxophone-playing postman in Washington, D.C., to a blues guitarist on a Memphis street, capture the high spirits, the humanity, and the creativity of a unique musical heritage.