

Learning from Loons

Mighty Mitten Books

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Like the loons that have fascinated him since his boyhood summers, Elliott Fowler thought he had paired for life. Instead, he finds himself navigating marital separation with his soon-to-be ex as their two children prepare to leave the nest. Elliott, a freelance scholar, gets pulled toward spirituality as he researches a book on the cult of evangelical beer brewing. And pulled toward a new future with a seemingly more compatible partner. But the eerie call of the loon haunts his soul, and he dreams of resolving his earthly problems by drawing on the bird's wisdom. And redeeming his earlier, failed self-help book, *Learning from Loons*.

David Stowe has published non-fiction books on American music and religion, and recently completed a novel, *Learning from Loons*, published by Mighty Mitten Books. He plays drums and saxophone in an Americana/country trio called Jackalope.

"I was unable to put down *Learning from Loons*. It is an exquisite narrative of normal human life made extraordinary due to circumstances beyond their control. Anyone who has made a mild deviation and experienced an absurdly large life change, as a result, will identify with the protagonist. The many artistic twists and turns are certain to call to mind experiences most of us have had in life and relationships. A wonderful debut novel from acclaimed cultural and musical historian David Stowe."

—Malcolm Magee, author of *What the Whole World Should Be*

Praise for earlier books

Swing Changes: Big-Band Jazz in New Deal America

"This excellent book on the Swing Era, its music and meaning, is a model of interdisciplinary social history, combining music, business, economics, and politics in a seamless and fascinating chronicle.... An intelligent and lively book, peppered with astute historical and musical observations."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

Song of Exile: The Enduring Mystery of Psalm 137

"A gem of lyrical prose and expansive erudition, *Song of Exile* lays out a comprehensive vision of the reception of Psalm 137."

—*Reading Religion*

No Sympathy for the Devil: Christian Pop Music and American Evangelicalism

"Stowe offers a serious and impressive examination.... Anyone even remotely interested in American or religious studies will be captivated by this study." —*Publishers Weekly*

How Sweet the Sound: Music in the Spiritual Lives of Americans

"With historical anecdotes and deft musical analysis, Stowe...focuses on selected moments, from colonial times to the present, when sacred musical styles emerged, combined with others, or took on whole new colorings."

—Jay Tolson, *U.S. News & World Report*

**Might Mitten Books
New Era, Michigan**

