

Barry Wittenstein

is the author of *The Boo-Boos That Changed the World: A True Story About an Accidental Invention (Really!)* and *Waiting for Pumpsie*. He didn't really like jazz when he was younger, but lucky for him, his older brother did. Barry has been a bartender, taxi driver, songwriter, web editor, writer for Major League Baseball, and a former NYC substitute teacher. He lives in the Bronx with his wife, and he thinks the Williamsburg Bridge should be renamed after Sonny Rollins. www.onedogwoof.com

Keith Mallett is the illustrator of *Take a Picture of Me, James VanDerZee* and *How Jelly Roll Morton Invented Jazz*. He studied art at Hunter College in New York City, and he was commissioned to design the limited-edition print commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of Jackie Robinson's historic breakthrough into major league baseball. He lives in San Diego, California. www.keithmallett.com

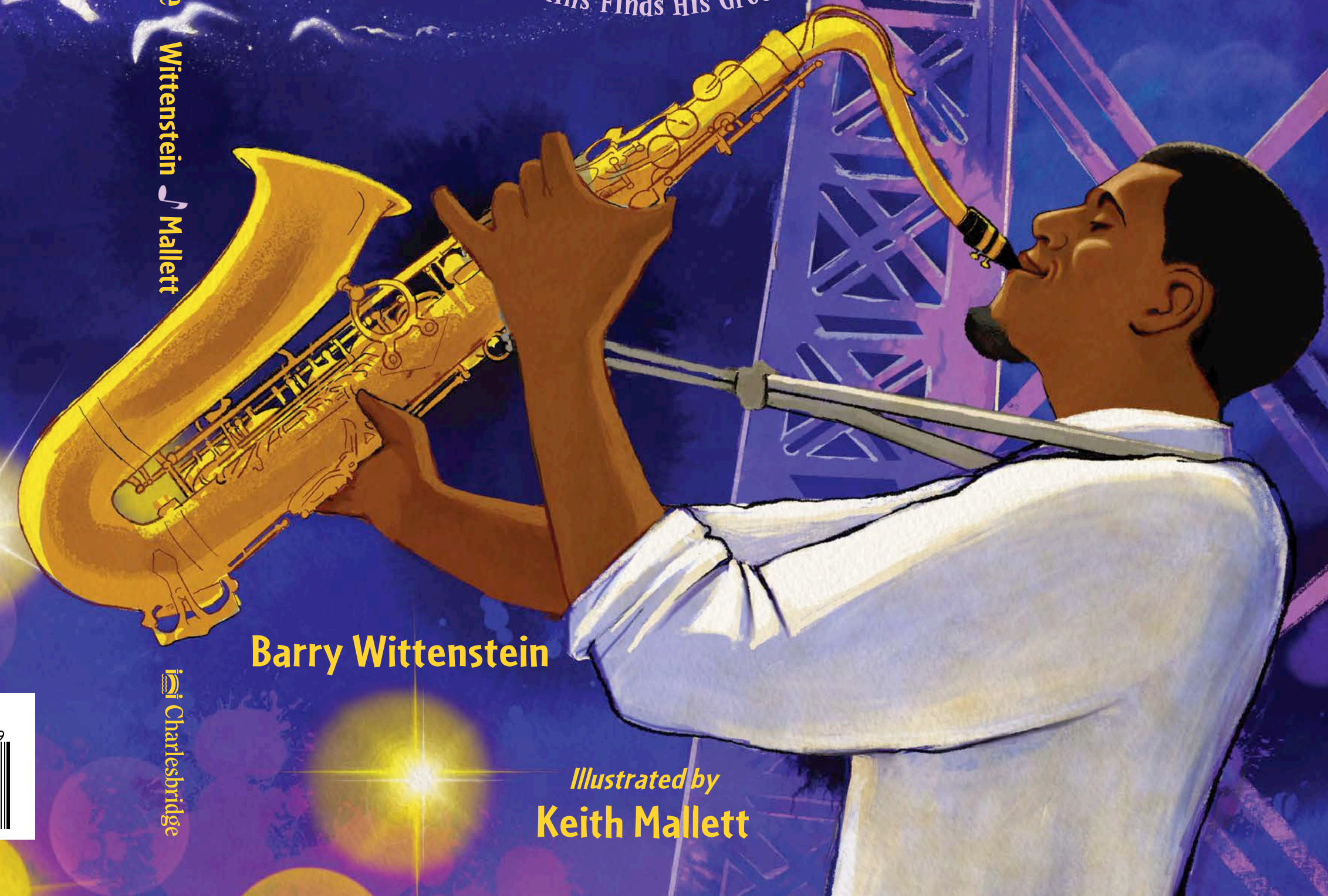
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Sonny's Bridge
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SONNY'S BRIDGE

Jazz Legend Sonny Rollins Finds His Groove



Barry Wittenstein

Illustrated by
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You
hear that?

Hear what?
That. *THAT!*
Somebody's playing
the saxophone. So what?
So that's Sonny Rollins,
that's what.

Sonny Rollins started playing the sax as a kid in Harlem in New York City. He rocketed to the top of the jazz world. Imagine the pressure.

So he stopped playing professionally. Took a step back. Turns out he wasn't sure he was worthy of all that fame.

Practicing at home disturbed his neighbors. So you know what he did? He went up on the Williamsburg Bridge. He and Henrietta—his saxophone—played there every day, rain or shine. For more than two years!

Sonny thought about who he was and what he wanted. Took some of the pressure off. Then he decided he was ready to go back to the recording studio.

The results? Sonny made one of his best-selling albums, *The Bridge*. Turned out that Sonny's time on the bridge to think things through solidified Walter Theodore "Sonny" Rollins's place in jazz history.