

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT RECORDINGS

If you want to learn to play jazz you have to listen, listen, listen. But many times students don't have any idea what recordings to buy. So we have created this list of many of the most important recordings in jazz.

Most of the recordings listed are from the 40's, 50's & 60's Bebop era. This is due to the strong influence this particular period of music has had on our current "jazz" scene today. We have purposely omitted a number of very early recordings because 1) many of those early recordings had very poor sound quality, 2) the artists recorded lots of material, and so they are represented by later recordings elsewhere on this list, and/or 3) the early recordings are not currently available on CD. If you have a turntable, you should start checking out yard sales and thrift stores—often you can find classic jazz recordings on vinyl for next to nothing.

For each record listed, you can see the artist name followed by the name of the album.

- CANNONBALL ADDERLEY - SOMETHIN' ELSE
- HERBIE HANCOCK - MAIDEN VOYAGE
- CLIFFORD BROWN - STUDY IN BROWN
- JOHN COLTRANE - BLUE TRAIN
- CANNONBALL ADDERLEY - & COLTRANE
- WAYNE SHORTER - SPEAK NO EVIL
- HORACE SILVER - SONG FOR MY FATHER
- DIZZY GILLESPIE - SONNY SIDE UP
- MILES DAVIS - KIND OF BLUE
- JOHN COLTRANE - GIANT STEPS
- J.J. JOHNSON - THE EMINENT, VOLUME 1
- ERIC DOLPHY - OUT TO LUNCH
- OLIVER NELSON - BLUES & THE ABSTRACT TRUTH
- LEE MORGAN - THE SIDEWINDER
- HANK MOBLEY - SOUL STATION
- MILES DAVIS - MILESTONES
- WES MONTGOMERY - SMOKIN AT THE HALF NOTE
- LEE MORGAN - CORNBREAD
- LARRY YOUNG - UNITY
- SONNY ROLLINS - SAXOPHONE COLOSSUS
- JOHN COLTRANE - MAINSTREAM 1958
- MCCOY TYNER - THE REAL MCCOY
- JOHN COLTRANE - A LOVE SUPREME
- DIZZY GILLESPIE - JAZZ AT MASSEY HALL
- ART BLAKEY - A NIGHT AT BIRDLAND VOL. 1
- BILL EVANS - UNDERCURRENT
- GENE AMMONS - BOSS TENORS
- MILES DAVIS - 'ROUND ABOUT MIDNIGHT
- ERROLL GARNER - CONCERT BY THE SEA
- MILES DAVIS - RELAXIN' WITH MILES
- WES MONTGOMERY - INCREDIBLE JAZZ GUITAR
- JOE HENDERSON - PAGE ONE
- FRANK ROSOLINO - FREE FOR ALL
- WES MONTGOMERY - FULL HOUSE
- ART FARMER - MODERN ART
- SONNY ROLLINS - TENOR MADNESS
- ART BLAKEY - MOANIN'
- MILES DAVIS - IN A SILENT WAY
- THELONIOUS MONK - WITH JOHN COLTRANE
- CHICK COREA - NOW HE SINGS, NOW HE SOBS
- BILL EVANS - SUNDAY AT VILLAGE VANGUARD
- CHARLIE PARKER - NOW'S THE TIME
- STAN GETZ - FOR MUSICIAN'S ONLY
- CHARLIE PARKER - BIRD & DIZ
- JOE HENDERSON - LUSH LIFE, STRAYHORN MUSIC
- BILL EVANS - WALTZ FOR DEBBY
- KENNY DORHAM - UNA MAS
- LESTER YOUNG - THE PRESIDENT PLAYS
W/THE OSCAR PETERSON TRIO
- JOE HENDERSON - IN 'N OUT
- JOHN COLTRANE - & JOHNNY HARTMAN
- NANCY WILSON - WITH C. ADDERLEY
- MILES DAVIS - COOKIN'
- RED GARLAND - GROOVY
- MILES DAVIS - STEAMIN' WITH MILES DAVIS
- JOHNNY GRIFFIN - A BLOWIN' SESSION
- JOHN COLTRANE - BALLADS
- CARL FONTANA - THE GREAT FONTANA
- ART BLAKEY - UGETSU
- ART BLAKEY - A NIGHT AT BIRDLAND VOL. 2
- FREDDIE HUBBARD - HUB TONES
- BUD POWELL - THE GENIUS OF
- MILES DAVIS - BITCHES BREW
- JOHN COLTRANE - COMPLETE VANGUARD
- LEE KONITZ - SUBCONSCIOUS-LEE
- STAN GETZ - STAN GETZ & BILL EVANS
- MILT JACKSON - BAGS MEETS WES
- JIMMY SMITH - BACK AT THE CHICKEN SHACK
- SONNY ROLLINS - PLUS FOUR
- JOE HENDERSON - INNER URGE
- WOODY HERMAN - KEEPER OF THE FLAME
- BUD POWELL - THE AMAZING - VOL 1
- CLIFFORD BROWN - BROWN/ROACH INC.
- JOE HENDERSON - MODE FOR JOE
- HORACE SILVER - BLOWIN' THE BLUES AWAY
- CLIFFORD BROWN - MORE STUDY IN BROWN
- SONNY CLARK - LEAPIN' AND LOPIN'
- MILES DAVIS - MY FUNNY VALENTINE
- CHICK COREA - LIGHT AS A FEATHER
- HERBIE HANCOCK - EMPYREAN ISLES
- SONNY ROLLINS - NEWK'S TIME
- HORACE SILVER - CAPE VERDEAN BLUES
- HERBIE HANCOCK - THE PRISONER
- MILES DAVIS - SEVEN STEPS TO HEAVEN
- BILLIE HOLIDAY - LADY DAY: BEST OF VERVE YRS
- CHARLES MINGUS - MINGUS AH UM
- DEXTER GORDON - HOMECOMING, LIVE AT V.V.
- ART BLAKEY - THE BIG BEAT
- CANNONBALL ADDERLEY - IN SAN FRANCISCO
- MILES DAVIS - MILES SMILES
- JOHN COLTRANE - LIVE AT BIRDLAND
- MILT JACKSON - BAGS MEETS WES
- FREDDIE HUBBARD - STRAIGHT LIFE
- MILES DAVIS - BAG'S GROOVE
- ORNETTE COLEMAN - SHAPE OF JAZZ TO COME
- STANLEY TURRENTINE - UP AT MINTON'S
- JOHN COLTRANE - MY FAVORITE THINGS
- MILES DAVIS - NEFERTITI
- WOODY SHAW - LITTLE RED'S FANTASY
- ELLINGTON, MINGUS, ROACH - MONEY JUNGLE
- DIZZY GILLESPIE - ROY AND DIZ
- BENNY CARTER - FURTHER DEFINITIONS
- JOHNNY GRIFFIN - TOUGH TENOR FAVORITES
- COUNT BASIE - THE COMPLETE ATOMIC BASIE