

Jazz Resources

By Don Braden

Twelve Great Classic Jazz Recordings

For someone just beginning to build a jazz CD collection, this list is a great start since it covers a variety of styles, eras and musicians. There are probably 100 (or more) classic recordings on this level available, but these are my choices for the first 12 to buy, today. For the student of jazz performance, all the essential elements (sound, swing, improvisation, melody, harmony, nuance, imagination, emotion, spirituality, spontaneity, democracy) are covered with these recordings.

Miles Davis - Kind of Blue

Charlie Parker - The Very Best of Bird (The Dial Sessions)

John Coltrane - Crescent

Wayne Shorter - Speak No Evil

Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong (self-titled)

Art Blakey - Moanin'

Horace Silver - The Cape Verdean Blues

Sonny Rollins - Newk's Time

Ben Webster - Ballads

Clifford Brown (and Max Roach) - Study in Brown

Duke Ellington - The Duke Ellington Carnegie Hall Concerts - 1943

Wynton Marsalis - Black Codes From the Underground

plus:

The Smithsonian Collection of Classic Jazz (a.k.a. SCCJ)

Jazz on the Web:

www.AllAboutJazz.com

www.DoubleTimeJazz.com (For purchasing)

www.JazzOnLn.com (Jazz Online)

www.JazzBooks.com

www.JazzCorner.com

www.Amazon.com (For purchasing)

www.WBGO.org

www.DonBraden.com (Has links to other jazz sites)

plus:

Use Yahoo or Alta Vista and search for "jazz" to uncover many other sites.

Jazz Books

How to Listen to Jazz - Jerry Coker

Jazz Styles - Mark Gridley

Jazz Is - Nat Hentoff

A History of Jazz - James Lincoln Collier

The Penguin Guide to Jazz on CD - Richard Cook and Brian Morton

The Harmony Illustrated Encyclopedia of Jazz - Brian Case and Stan Britt

Miles, The Autobiography - Miles Davis with Quincy Troupe

What Jazz Is - Jonathan Z. King

Saying Something - Ingrid Monson

Jazz: A History of America's Music - Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns

The Jazz Theory Book - Mark Levine

Jazz Piano Voicings for the Non-Pianist - Mike Tracy

plus:

The jazz magazines: JazzTimes, Down Beat, Jazziz, The Jazz Report, Cadence
and:

The Jamey Aebersold Play-a-Long series, especially:

Volume 1 - How to Play Jazz and Improvise

Volume 2 - Nothin' But Blues

Volume 3 - The II V7 I Progression

Volume 6 - All Bird

Volume 8 - Sonny Rollins

Volume 11 - Herbie Hancock

Volume 12 - Duke Ellington

Volume 54 - Maiden Voyage

Jazz Theory Resources

- Levine, Mark, The Jazz Theory Book; Sher Music Co. 1995
- Leibman, David, A Chromatic Approach To Jazz Harmony and Melody; Advance Music 1991
- Boling, Mark C., The Jazz Theory Workbook (edited by Jerry Coker); Advance Music 1993