

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

SUGGESTED LISTENING - JAZZ ARTISTS

- 1. TRUMPET** - Nat Adderley, Louis Armstrong, Chet Baker, Terence Blanchard, Lester Bowie, Randy Brecker, Clifford Brown, Don Cherry, Buck Clayton, Johnny Coles, Miles Davis, Kenny Dorham, Dave Douglas, Harry Edison, Roy Eldridge, Art Farmer, Dizzy Gillespie, Bobby Hackett, Tim Hagans, Bill Hardman, Roy Hargrove, Phillip Harper, Tom Harrell, Eddie Henderson, Terumasa Hino, Freddie Hubbard, Ingrid Jensen, Thad Jones, Booker Little, Bryan Lynch, Joe Magnarelli, John McNeil, Wynton Marsalis, John Marshall, Blue Mitchell, Lee Morgan, Fats Navarro, Joe Newman, Nicholas Payton, Jeremy Pelt, Barry Ries, Claudio Roditi, Wallace Roney, Jim Rotondi, Arturo Sandoval, Carl Saunders, Christian Scott, Woody Shaw, Bobby Shew, Alex Sipiagin, Terrell Stafford, John Swana, Clark Terry, Scott Wendholt, Kenny Wheeler, Joe Wilder
- 2. SOPRANO SAX** - Sidney Bechet, Jane Ira Bloom, Nick Brignola, John Coltrane, Joe Farrell, Steve Grossman, Christine Jensen, Steve Lacy, David Liebman, Chris Potter, Wayne Shorter, Ernie Watts
- 3. ALTO SAX** - Cannonball Adderley, Craig Bailey, Gary Bartz, Arthur Blythe, Anthony Braxton, Richie Cole, Ornette Coleman, Steve Coleman, John Dankworth, Paul Desmond, Eric Dolphy, Lou Donaldson, Paquito D'Rivera, Sonny Fortune, Kenny Garrett, Herb Geller, Bunky Green, Jimmy Greene, Antonio Hart, Vincent Herring, John Jenkins, Christine Jensen, Eric Kloss, Lee Konitz, Charlie Mariano, Jackie McLean, Roscoe Mitchell, Frank Morgan, Lanny Morgan, Lennie Niehaus, Greg Osby, Charlie Parker, Art Pepper, Marshall Royal, Bud Shank, Steve Slagel, Jim Snidero, James Spaulding, Sonny Stitt, Sadao Watanabe, Bobby Watson, Ernie Watts, Steve Wilson, Phil Woods, John Zorn
- 4. TENOR SAX** - George Adams, Eric Alexander, Gene Ammons, Bob Berg, Jerry Bergonzi, Don Braden, Michael Brecker, Gary Campbell, George Coleman, John Coltrane, Junior Cook, Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis, Bill Evans, Joe Farrell, Bud Freeman, Chico Freeman, Von Freeman, George Garzone, Stan Getz, Benny Golson, Paul Gonsalves, Dexter Gordon, Johnny Griffin, Steve Grossman, Eddie Harris, Coleman Hawkins, Joe Henderson, Illinois Jacquet, Joseph Jarman, Clifford Jordan, (Rahsaan) Roland Kirk, John Klemmer, Ralph Lalama, Harold Land, Pat LaBarbera, Azar Lawrence, Dave Liebman, Charles Lloyd, Joe Lovano, Rick Margitza, Branford Marsalis, Warne Marsh, Donny McCaslin, Bob Mintzer, Hank Mobley, James Moody, Sam Morrison, Rich Perry, Billy Pierce, Chris Potter, Dewey Redman, Joshua Redman, Sonny Rollins, Pharoah Sanders, Larry Schneider, Archie Shepp, Wayne Shorter, Zoot Sims, Sonny Stitt, Stanley Turrentine, Benny Wallace, Ernie Watts, Ben Webster, Walt Weiskopf, Lester Young
- 5. BARITONE SAX** - Pepper Adams, Nick Brignola, Harry Carney, Serge Chaloff, Ronnie Cuber, Claire Daly, Charles Davis, Gerry Mulligan, Leo Parker, Pat Patrick, Cecil Payne, Sahib Shihab, Gary Smulyan
- 6. TROMBONE** - Ray Anderson, Milt Bernhardt, Garnett Brown, Jimmy Cleveland, Hal Crook, Steve Davis, Robin Eubanks, John Fedchock, Carl Fontana, Curtis Fuller, Urbie Green, Slide Hampton, Bill Harris, Conrad Herwig, J.J. Johnson, Delfeayo Marsalis, Grachan Moncur III, Frank Rosolino, Roswell Rudd, Jack Teagarden, Steve Turre, Bill Watrous, Phil Wilson, Kai Winding
- 7. FLUTE** - Eric Dolphy, Joe Farrell, (Rahsaan) Roland Kirk, Yusef Lateef, Hubert Laws, David Liebman, Charles Lloyd, Herbie Mann, James Moody, Jeremy Steig, Lew Tabackin, Frank Wess
- 8. CLARINET** - Sidney Bechet, Nick Brignola, Don Byron, John Carter, Anat Cohen, Eddie Daniels, Buddy DeFranco, Eric Dolphy (bass clarinet), Paquito D'Rivera, Frank Glover, Benny Goodman, Jimmy Giuffrè, Jimmy Hamilton, Woody Herman, Bob Mintzer (bass clarinet), Art Pepper, Chris Potter (bass clarinet), Russell Procope, Pee Wee Russell, Tony Scott, Artie Shaw, Phil Woods
- 9. GUITAR** - John Abercrombie, Howard Alden, George Benson, Peter Bernstein, Joshua Breakstone, Kenny Burrell, Philip Catherine, Charlie Christian, Dave Cliff, Joe Cohn, Larry Coryell, Herb Ellis, Steve Erquiaga, Tal Farlow, Chris Flory, Bill Frisell, Mick Goodrick, Grant Green, Jerry Hahn, Jim Hall, Scott Henderson, Charlie Hunter, Vic Juris, Steve Khan, Barney Kessel, Earl Klugh, Bireli Lagrene, Peter Leich, Pat Martino, John McLaughlin, Pat Metheny, Ben Monder, Wes Montgomery, Joe Pass, Bucky Pizzarelli, John Pizzarelli, Doug Raney, Jimmy Raney, Django Reinhardt, Emily Remler, Adam Rodgers, Kurt Rosenwinkel, John Scofield, Mike Stern, Dave Stryker, Zvonimir Tot, Attila Zoller
- 10. PIANO** - Geri Allen, Lynne Arriale, Kenny Barron, Bruce Barth, Richie Beirach, Ran Blake, Paul Bley, Dave Brubeck, Ray Bryant, Jaki Byard, George Cables, Joey Calderazzo, Michel Camilo, Gerald Clayton, Chick Corea, Kenny Drew, George Duke, Eliane Elias, Bill Evans, Victor Feldman, Tommy Flanagan, Bobby Floyd, Don Friedman, Hal Galper, Red Garland, Erroll Garner, Larry Goldings, Benny Green, Don Grolnick, Dan Haerle, Al Haig, Herbie Hancock, Roland Hanna, Hampton Hawes, Fred Hersch, Andrew Hill, Ahmad Jamal, Keith Jarrett, Hank Jones, Geoff Keezer, Wynton Kelly, Steve Kuhn, Andy LaVerne, Mike LeDonne, Mark Levine, John Lewis, Harold Mabern, Ronnie Mathews, Marian McPartland, Brad Meldhau, Mulgrew Miller, Thelonious Monk, Tete Montoliu, Michel Petrucciani, Harry Pickens, Phineas Newborn Jr., Makoto Ozone, Danilo Perez, Oscar Peterson, Bud Powell, Renee Rosnes, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Horace Silver, Art Tatum, Jacky Terrasson, Bobby Timmons, Lennie Tristano, McCoy Tyner, Cedar Walton, Kenny Werner, James Williams, Mary Lou Williams, Joe Zawinul, Denny Zeitlin
- 11. BASS** - Jay Anderson, Victor Bailey, Jimmie Blanton, Ray Brown, Ron Carter, Paul Chambers, Stanley Clarke, Scott Colley, Todd Coolman, Bob Cranshaw, Israel Crosby, Richard Davis, George Duvivier, Charles Fambrough, David Friesen, Jimmy Garrison, John Goldsby, Eddie Gomez, Larry Grenadier, Charlie Haden, Percy Heath, Milt Hinton, Dave Holland, Bob Hurst, Dennis Irwin, Anthony Jackson, James Jamerson, Marc Johnson, Sam Jones, Scott LaFaro, Steve LaSpina, Cecil McBee, Christian McBride, Marcus Miller, Charlie Mingus, Red Mitchell, Monk Montgomery, Glen Moore, Mike Moore, Bill Moring, George Mraz, Walter Page, Jaco Pastorius, John Patitucci, Gary Peacock, Niels Ørsted Pedersen, Oscar Pettiford, Chuck Rainey, Rufus Reid, Mike Richmond, Lynn Seaton, Esperanza Spaulding, Slam Stewart, Steve Swallow, Leroy Vinnegar, Miroslav Vitous, Peter Washington, Buster Williams, Victor Wooten, Gene Wright
- 12. DRUMS** - Carl Allen, Donald Bailey, Joey Baron, Louis Bellson, Ed Blackwell, Brian Blade, Art Blakey, Roy Brooks, Terri Lyne Carrington, Dennis Chambers, Joe Chambers, Kenny Clarke, Jimmy Cobb, Billy Cobham, Steve Davis, Billy Drummond, Jack DeJohnette, Peter Erskine, Joe Farnsworth, Al Foster, Vernel Fournier, Frank Gant, Al Harewood, Billy Hart, Roy Haynes, Tootie Heath, Billy Higgins, Roger Humphries, Colby Inzer, Elvin Jones, Philly Joe Jones, Jo Jones, Willie Jones III, Connie Kay, Stan Levy, Victor Lewis, Shelly Manne, Marty Morell, Joe Morello, Bob Moses, Paul Motian, Alphonse Mouzon, Idris Muhammed, Adam Nussbaum, Ralph Peterson, Tony Reedus, Buddy Rich, Dannie Richmond, Max Roach, Mickey Roker, Marvin "Smitty" Smith, Ed Soph, Bill Stewart, Grady Tate, Art Taylor, Jason Tiemann, Kenny Washington, Peter Washington, Jeff "Tain" Watts, Dave Weckl, Lenny White, Tony Williams
- 13. VIBES** - Roy Ayers, Gary Burton, Walt Dickerson, Victor Feldman, Dave Friedman, Terry Gibbs, Lionel Hampton, Stefon Harris, Tubby Hayes, Jay Hoggard, Bobby Hutcherson, Milt Jackson, Joe Locke, Mike Mainieri, Buddy Montgomery, Steve Nelson, Red Norvo, Dave Pike, David Samuels, Charlie Shoemaker, Dick Sisto, Cal Tjader, Lem Winchester
- 14. ORGAN** - Milt Buckner, Joey DeFrancesco, Barbara Dennerlein, Charles Earland, Bobby Floyd, Larry Goldings, Richard "Groove" Holmes, Mike LeDonne, Hank Marr, Jack McDuff, Jimmy McGriff, Don Patterson, John Patton, Melvin Rhyne, Shirley Scott, Jimmy Smith, Johnny "Hammond" Smith, Lonnie Smith, Charles Thompson, Gary Versace, Dan Wall, Fats Waller, Sam Yahel, Larry Young
- 15. BIG BANDS** - Airmen Of Note, Toshiko Akiyoshi, Count Basie, Louis Bellson, Carla Bley, Francy Boland, Duke Ellington, Don Ellis, Gil Evans, Maynard Ferguson, Bob Florence, Terry Gibbs Dream Band, Dizzy Gillespie, Woody Herman, Conrad Herwig's Latin Big Band, Bill Holman, Thad Jones/Lewis, Stan Kenton, Mel Lewis/Jones, Wynton Marsalis, Rob McConnell, Charles Mingus, Mingus Dynasty Big Band, Bob Mintzer, Monday Night Vanguard Orchestra, Eddie Palmieri, Tito Puente, Sun Ra, Buddy Rich, George Russell, Maria Schneider, Lew Tabackin, Bill Watrous, WDR Big Band, Randy Weston, Gerald Wilson
- 16. VOCALISTS/SCAT SINGERS** - Mose Allison, Louis Armstrong, Chet Baker, Jennifer Barnes, Tony Bennett, Jackie Cain, Betty Carter, Ray Charles, June Christy, Rosemary Clooney, Harry Connick, Jr., Chris Connor, Denis DiBlasio, Billy Eckstine, Kurt Elling, Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Johnny Hartman, Jon Hendricks, Billie Holiday, Al Jarreau, Eddie Jefferson, Roy Kral, Diana Krall, Jeanne Lee, Peggy Lee, Jon Lucien, Kevin Mahogany, Carmen McCrae, Bobby McFerrin, Darmon Meader, Anita O'Day, Lou Rawls, Dianne Reeves, Frank Sinatra, Esperanza Spaulding, Dakota Staton, Grady Tate, Clark Terry, Leon Thomas, Mel Torme, Sarah Vaughn, Dinah Washington, Joe Williams, Nancy Wilson, Norma Winstone
- 17. VIOLIN** - Darol Anger, John Blake, Regina Carter, Sara Caswell, Jerry Goodman, Stephane Grappelli, Gregor Huebner, Joe Kennedy Jr., Ray Nance, Jean-Luc Ponty, Randy Sabien, Zbigniew Seifert, Stuff Smith, Joe Venuti, Michael White, Fiddler Williams
- 18. CELLO** - David Baker
- 19. HARMONICA** - Howard Levy, Toots Thielemans