



SONNY ROLLINS,
“Saxophone Colossus”
 (Essential Jazz Classics/
 MVD Audio) ☆☆☆½;
ART TATUM & BEN
WEBSTER, “The Album”
 (Essential Jazz Classics/
 MVD Audio) ☆☆☆☆;
RED GARLAND, “The
1956 Trio” (Essential Jazz
 Classics/MVD Audio)
 ☆☆☆½; **CLIFFORD**
BROWN, SONNY
ROLLINS & MAX
ROACH QUINTET,
“Complete Studio



Recordings” (Essential Jazz Classics/MVD
 Audio) ☆☆☆☆ — To most music fans, the
 mid-1950s were all about Elvis Presley, Chuck
 Berry, Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis and



the birth of rock 'n' roll.
 But jazz aficionados are well
 aware of the fact that some
 of that genre's most innova-
 tive and appealing music
 was being made at the same
 time. Essential Jazz Classics
 is looking to remind jazz
 lovers of that fertile era by
 releasing a quartet of classic
 albums.



Sonny Rollins' "Saxophone Colossus" includes the original five tracks, plus his previous album "Work Time" and

the result is a sprawling collection of the saxophone master's best work. Essential tunes here include "You Don't Know What Love Is," "Moritat," "Blue" and "There's No Business Like Show Business."

The landmark recording "The Album," featuring piano great Art Tatum and tenor sax wizard Ben Webster, is my favorite of the four re-issues. Recorded in 1956 with Red Callender on bass and Bill Douglass on drums, tunes such as "All the Things You Are," "Have You Met Miss Jones," "My Ideal" and "My One and Only Love" are timeless. That the CD includes five bonus tracks of Tatum's solo piano work is icing on the cake.

Red Garland's "The 1956 Trio" focuses mainly on the fantastic "A Garland of Red" release, featuring Garland on piano, and jazz lovers won't be able to resist keepers "My Romance," "Makin' Whoopee," "September in the Rain" and "Constellation." Of the five additional tracks, all recorded that same year, "Willow, Weep for Me," "If I Were a Bell" and the phenomenal "Ahmad's Blues" are the highlights.

"Complete Studio Recordings" combines "Clifford Brown and Max Roach at Basin Street" and "Sonny Rollins Plus 4" onto one CD. Having standout tracks such as "Step Lightly (Junior's Arrival)," "I'll Remember April," "What Is This Thing Called Love?," "Pent-Up House" and "Kiss and Run" together on one disc is an absolute delight. (*Jeffrey Sisk*)