



Clifford Brown/Sonny Rollins/Max Roach Quintet
Complete Studio Recordings
Essential Jazz Classics

This disc features two superb jazz albums on one CD: *Clifford Brown and Max Roach at Basin Street* and *Sonny Rollins Plus Four*. Those albums were great individually, and even better combined here. The combo cooks on “Gertrude’s Bounce,” swings lightly with “Step Lightly (Junior’s Arrival),” takes off on “I’ll Remember April,” delivers percolating and smoking takes of “What Is This Thing Called Love” and “Love Is A Many-Splendored Thing,” while “Count Your Blessing” is jazz romance as sweet make-out music. Brown died in a car accident just months after the sessions, unfortunately for all of us. Forget the likes of so-called “Smooth Jazz” or worse — the elevator music that’s “Quiet Storm.” From BeBop to cool, THIS is jazz.

Art Tatum/Ben Webster
The Album
Essential Jazz Classics

Valued as one of the 100 greatest jazz albums ever, this release features pianist Art Tatum’s last studio sessions before his death. This edition offers the original Art Tatum/Ben Webster Quartet album, then adds Tatum solo recordings as well. Plenty of standards here, getting the smokey and alluring club environs treatment, including “All the Things You Are,” “Night and Day,” “Where or When,” and “My All and Only Love.” This was Tatum and Webster’s only collaboration, despite their long careers, and it’s a wonder for that magic captured at the time.

Red Garland
The 1956 Trio
Essential Jazz Classics

Collecting all trio studio recordings made by pianist Garland the title’s year, featuring bassist Paul Chambers and drummer Art Taylor, the completed *A Garland of Red* LP includes standards such as “My Romance” and “What Is This Thing Called Love.” It’s presented here along with a session from December of that year, whose tracks would later be scattered on other releases, as well as a trio tune culled from Garland’s time with Miles Davis on Prestige, “Ahmad’s Blues,” with stickman Philly Joe Jones on the drums.

<http://www.buzzine.com/2009/07/cd-spins-6/>

