

Building a Jazz Library

This is intended to be a listing of artists and recordings deemed to be essential in building a basic jazz library. Some of the recordings are simply a best of recording, so as to introduce a collector to an overall composite of the artist's work, not necessarily the most historic recording. Order doesn't determine importance of one recording over the other. This listing could easily have numbered in the hundreds, but this grouping gives an enthusiast a basic introduction into some of the important movers and shakers of the jazz scene.

ARTIST	ALBUM	PUBLISHER
Miles Davis	Kind of Blue	Columbia
Dave Brubeck	Time Out	Columbia
Count Basie	April in Paris	Verve
Bill Evans	Portrait of Jazz	Fantasy
Stan Getz/Joao	Getz and Gilberto	Verve
Duke Ellington	Blues in Orbit	Columbia
Oscar Peterson	The Lost Tapes	Verve
Ella Fitzgerald	Sings the Blues	Pablo
Sarah Vaughn	The Best of	Pablo
Nat King Cole	After Midnight	Capitol
Stan Kenton	Retrospective-4	Capitol
Erroll Garner	Magician & Gersh.	TelArcive
Hi-Lo's	Columbia Years	Koch
Mose Allison	Allison Wonder	Atlantic
Louis Armstrong	Decca Highlight	Decca
Ben Webster	Jaz Round Midnight	Verve
John Coltrane	Gentle Side of...	Impulse
Clifford Brown/Max	And Max Roach	EmArcy
Billie Holiday	Billie Songbook	Verve
Benny Goodman	Slipped Disc 1945	Columbia
George Shearing	Best of 1960-69	CapitolCD
Modern Jazz Quartet	Dedicated to Connie	Atlantic
Gerry Mulligan	Concert Jazz Band	Verve
Gill Evans/Miles Davis	Porgy & Bess	Columbia
Lester Young	Blue Lester	Savoy
Johnny Hartman	With Coltrane	MCA/Impulse
Nancy Wilson	Swingin's Mutual	Capitol
Herbie Mann	Evolution of Mann	Atlantic
Woody Herman	Thundering Herds	Columbia
Shirley Horn	Here's to Life	Verve
Lionel Hampton	Reunion Newport	RCA/BlueBird
Art Blkey	Best of Messengers	BlueNote
Art Tatum	Best of Tatum	Pablo
Coleman Hawkins	In a Mello Tone	Prestige
Ella & Duke Ellington	Ella & Duke	Verve

Maynard Ferguson	Chris Connor 2s	Capitol
Keith Jarrett Trio	Standards Live	ECM
Red Garland Trio	Groovy	Prestige
Art Pepper	No Limit	Contemporary
Milt Jackson	Reverence & Compass	Qwest
Charlie Parker	Bird-Origin Recs	Verve
Chet Baker	Chet	Riverside
Dizzy & Bird	Jazz at Massey Hall	Fantasy
Thelonious Monk	Best of	BlueNote
Bud Powell	Best of	BlueNote
Horace Silver	Song for Father	BlueNote
Wes Montgomery	Plays the Blues	Verve
Joe Pass	Appassionato	Pablo
Basie & Williams	Swings/Sings	Verve
Sonny Rollins	Best of BlueNote	Capitol
Ella Fitzgerald/Louis Armstrong		Verve

Recommended Jazz Record Companies

The best Jazz CDs come from the best Jazz Companies. Here is a list compiled by Steve Williams.

[Atlantic](#)

[BlueBird Records](#)

[Bluenote](#)

[BMG Records](#)

[Capital Records](#)

[Columbia](#)

[Concord](#)

[Denon](#)

[ECM Records](#)

[Fantasy](#)

[Fedora](#)

[Highnote](#)

[Narada](#)

[RCA Records](#)

[Reference](#)

[Rhino Records](#)

Riverside (now distributed by [Fantasy](#))

[Savant](#)

[Stinky Boy Records](#)

[Summit](#)

[Telarc](#)

[Town Crier](#)

[Verve](#)

[Warner Brothers](#)