

Top 100 Jazz CDs

The Best Jazz Ever Released on CD

The list below is based on a comprehensive statistical survey of jazz critics, record stores and popular polls. I hope you find this useful as we continue to study a largely aural tradition of jazz study. To study jazz is to listen to it. As we work this year to define and re-define what our definition of jazz is, let's use this list as a starting place. Enjoy.

Rank	Artist	Title	Year
1	Miles Davis	Kind of Blue	1959
2	John Coltrane	A Love Supreme	1964
3	Duke Ellington	The Blanton-Webster Band	1942
4	Charles Mingus	Mingus Ah Um	1959
5	Thelonious Monk	Brilliant Corners	1956
6	Sonny Rollins	Saxophone Colossus	1956
7	Louis Armstrong	25 Greatest Hot Fives & Sevens	1928
8	Bill Evans Trio	Sunday At the Village Vanguard	1961
9	Charlie Parker	Best of Complete Savoy & Dial	1948
10	Ornette Coleman	The Shape of Jazz to Come	1959
11	Count Basie Orchestra	The Complete Atomic Basie	1957
12	Art Blakey & the Jazz Messengers	Moanin'	1958
13	Herbie Hancock	Maiden Voyage	1965
14	Miles Davis	Sketches Of Spain	1960
15	Stan Getz & João Gilberto	Getz/Gilberto	1963
16	Ella Fitzgerald	The Best of the Song Books	1964
17	Dizzy Gillespie	Groovin' High [Indigo]	1946
18	Clifford Brown & Max Roach	Study in Brown	1955
19	Eric Dolphy	Out to Lunch!	1964
20	Miles Davis	In a Silent Way	1969
21	Billie Holiday & Lester Young	A Musical Romance	1944
22	Various Artists	Best of Blue Note (Vols 1 & 2)	1965
23	John Coltrane	Blue Train	1957
24	The Gerry Mulligan Quartet	The Best Of... With Chet Baker	1953
25	The Horace Silver Quintet	Song for My Father	1964
26	Keith Jarrett	The Köln Concert	1975
27	Chick Corea	Light As a Feather	1972
28	Cannonball Adderley	Somethin' Else	1958
29	The Dave Brubeck Quartet	Time Out	1959
30	Wayne Shorter	Speak No Evil	1964
31	Bud Powell	The Definitive Bud Powell	1953
32	Coleman Hawkins	Body & Soul [RCA]	1956
33	Dexter Gordon	Go!	1962
34	The Oscar Peterson Trio	Night Train	1962
35	Pat Metheny Group	Pat Metheny Group	1978
36	Wes Montgomery	Incredible Jazz Guitar	1960
37	Various Artists	Talkin' Verve [1951-72]	1972
38	Art Pepper	Meets the Rhythm Section	1957
39	Lester Young	With the Oscar Peterson Trio	1952
40	Sarah Vaughan w/Clifford Brown	Sarah Vaughan With Clifford Brown	1954
41	Miles Davis	Bitches Brew	1969
42	Benny Goodman	Carnegie Hall Jazz Concert	1938
43	Duke Ellington & His Orchestra	Ellington At Newport	1956
44	Joe Henderson	Page One	1963
45	Lee Morgan	The Sidewinder	1963

46	Modern Jazz Quartet	Django	1955
47	Chet Baker	My Funny Valentine	1956
48	Art Tatum w/ Ben Webster	Tatum Group Masterpieces, Vol 8	1956
49	Cecil Taylor	Unit Structures	1966
50	McCoy Tyner	The Real McCoy	1967
51	Weather Report	Heavy Weather	1977
52	Jimmy Smith	The Sermon	1958
53	Charles Mingus	Black Saint & the Sinner Lady	1963
54	Gene Ammons & Sonny Stitt	Boss Tenors - Chicago 1961	1961
55	Oliver Nelson	The Blues & the Abstract Truth	1961
56	Various Artists	Fabulous Swing Collections	1944
57	John Coltrane	My Favorite Things	1960
58	Jackie McLean	Let Freedom Ring	1962
59	Sun Ra & His Arkestra	Jazz In Silhouette	1958
60	The Gil Evans Orchestra	Out of the Cool	1960
61	Woody Herman	The Thundering Herds - 1945-1947	1947
62	Dave Holland Quartet	Conference Of the Birds	1972
63	Jelly Roll Morton	Birth Of the Hot	1927
64	Erroll Garner	Concert by the Sea	1955
65	Gerry Mulligan & Ben Webster	Gerry Mulligan Meets Ben Webster	1959
66	David Murray Octet	Ming	1980
67	Lee Konitz	Subconscious-Lee	1950
68	Jay Jay Johnson	The Eminent J J Johnson (Vol. 1)	1953
69	Hank Mobley	Soul Station	1960
70	Wynton Marsalis	Black Codes(From the Underground)	1985
71	Fats Navarro (w/Tadd Dameron)	Dameronia	1948
72	Freddie Hubbard	Open Sesame	1960
73	The Quintet (w/ Charlie Parker)	Jazz At Massey Hall	1952
74	Bix Beiderbecke	At the Jazz Band Ball	1928
75	Gillespie, Rollins & Stitt	Sonny Side Up	1957
76	Sidney Bechet	Legendary Sidney Bechet	1941
77	Charlie Haden & Pat Metheny	Beyond the Missouri Sky	1996
78	Various Artists	Original Jazz Classics Samplers	1969
79	Rahsaan Roland Kirk	Rip, Rig & Panic/Beautiful Edith	1967
80	Stan Kenton	New Concepts of Artistry In Rhythm	1952
81	Joe Lovano	From the Soul	1991
82	Reinhardt/Grappelli	The Quintessential 25 Classics	1940
83	Miles Davis Quintet	Cookin'	1956
84	Albert Ayler Trio	Spiritual Unity	1964
85	Dizzy Gillespie & Roy Eldridge	Roy and Diz	1954
86	Stan Getz & Charlie Byrd	Jazz Samba	1962
87	Benny Carter & His Orchestra	Further Definitions	1961
88	The Mahavishnu Orchestra	Inner Mounting Flame	1971
89	Duke Ellington (w/ Mingus & Roach)	Money Jungle	1962
90	Lennie Tristano	Supersonic	1950
91	Frank Sinatra	Sinatra At the Sands	1966
92	Ella Fitzgerald & Louis Armstrong	Ella & Louis Again	1957
93	Grant Green	Idle Moments	1963
94	John Zorn	The Big Gundown	1985
95	Nat 'King' Cole Trio	Hit That Jive, Jack	1941
96	Various Artists-Masters Of Jazz	Traditional Jazz Classics	1940
97	Cassandra Wilson	Blue Light 'Til Dawn	1993
98	Michael Brecker	Michael Brecker	1987
99	George Russell Sextet	Ezz-thetics	1961
100	Art Ensemble Of Chicago	Nice Guys	1978