

CAN A COOL TEE LEAD TO WORLD DOMINATION?

Bette Midler famously said “with the right footwear one can rule the world.” How about a really cool jazz T? Don a Village Vanguard *Electric Roland Kirk* tee and you may be on your way—we know jazz rules! The white and red silkscreened print of the original poster on a black cotton shirt includes the dates of Rahsaan’s month(!)-long run at the historic venue: Nov. 28–Dec. 31 (1973).

VILLAGEVANGUARD.COM/PRODUCT/ELECTRIC-ROLAND-KIRK-VANGUARD \$30



For an extra dash of jazz leadership authority, how about a *Jazz Education Network* (JEN) hoodie? And for a mere \$5 band tip more, for the backside you can add specialty designs (e.g. “Band Mom,” “Band Dad,” “I Am With The Band” or your choice of instrument name).

STORES.INKSOFT.COM/JEN_JAZZ_EDUCATION_NETWORK/SHOP/ \$45

Or if you lean to more save-the-world of jazz goals, there are two great tees from proactive jazz organizations. The youth-forward education-oriented *Jazz Power Initiative* offers a dazzling “Jazz Power” cotton tee, while the *Jazz Foundation of America’s* All Blues line tee offers add-on options of a double album on blue vinyl and/or CD—a bonafide triple threat of empowerment!

JAZZPOWER.ORG/2017/09/JAZZ-POWER-T-SHIRTS-ARE-NOW-AVAILABLE

32BARBLUES.COM/PRODUCTS/ALL-BLUES-VINYL.HTML

\$20-48



NOTHING STATIONARY ABOUT JAZZ. BUT WE HAVE SOME COOL STATIONERY!

Make a note of it with a *journaling book* from the National Jazz Museum in Harlem. Send a celebratory greeting with a jazzy *pop-up card*. Or share a statement about the amazing *women of jazz*, starting with the brilliant Alice Coltrane blank card.

NJMHSHOP.ORG
CHARMPOPCARDS.COM
KIADOLBY.COM
\$5-10



ALBERT EINSTEIN SAID “IMAGINATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN KNOWLEDGE.” HE MUST HAVE BEEN A JAZZER.

To be placed directly above or close to the turntable in the listening or living room, there’s the collection of imaginative framed jazz figures, including artsy *jazz posters* from recreations of Cannonball and West Coast Cool to Monk. Or how about a set of hand-painted, porcelain *figurines* of eight unique Mardi Gras-themed musicians? And perfect for any stratospheric altar, there’s the soft vinyl, classic *Sun Ra* figurine, which offers blessings from afar (designed by Chicagoan, Sea and Cake’s Archer Prewitt).

THEJAZZDIVE.COM MARDIGRASZONE.COM PRESSPOP.TOYS \$80-265

*Get 15% OFF with
Code: NYCJazz15 (Expires 1/31/26)



CATS KNOW HOW SPECIAL BOXES ARE!



Yes, Bing Crosby had a brother, and Mosaic is re-evaluating his contributions to jazz with the boxed set, *Classic Decca Recordings of Bob Crosby And His Orchestra & The Bob Cats (1936-1942)*, a treasure chest of his work, meticulously remastered for cutting-edge sound. Crosby’s orchestra played with a unique approach to big band music and small groups, which featured some of the most thrilling soloists of the day (Billy Butterfield, Yank Lawson, Muggsy Spanier, et al.). 144 cuts on six CDs reveal what made this band—and its members—special.

MOSAICRECORDS.COM \$119.00

Five From '65: The Quintet Summer Sessions of Chet Baker (New Land) is a limited edition 5-LP boxed set featuring five original 1965 studio albums: *Boppin', Smokin', Groovin', Comin' On and Cool Burnin'*. Remastered and cut directly from the original analog mono tapes by Kevin Gray, manufactured on 180g vinyl and housed in reverse-board deluxe sleeves, the set also comes with an expansive book with liners by GRAMMY® award-nominated James Gavin, interviews with Chet and bandmates George Coleman, Kirk Lightsey, Herman Wright, Roy Brooks and previously unseen photographs.

NEWLAND.OCHRE.STORE \$199.99



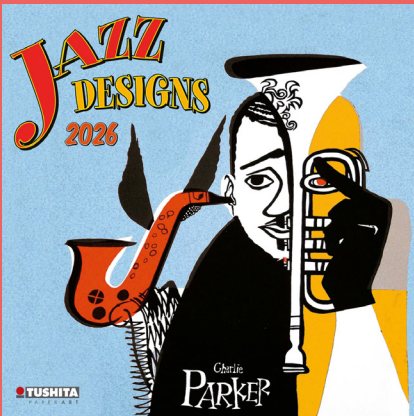
Ahead of *John Coltrane’s* 2026 centenary year, Rhino’s 6-LP *John Coltrane 1960-1964* boxed set features the saxophonist’s historic Atlantic albums (AAA cut from the original mono master tapes by Kevin Gray). Pressed on 180g vinyl, the set features rare alternate French covers with the original US art in the heavyweight glossy gatefolds. It’s limited to 2,000 individually numbered copies, with two sets allowed per customer. Gift one fast to a friend and grab one for yourself!

STORE.RHINO.COM \$249.98

TIME (AND TIDE) MAY NOT WAIT FOR ANYONE, BUT THIS CALENDAR AT LEAST LETS YOU KNOW WHAT DAY IT IS!

Check out this handsome “Jazz Designs” wall calendar with full-page top image and full-page bottom grid, to mark the days of 2026 with cool images by (if not inspired by) David Stone Martin for each month: from Ellington, Miles, Armstrong, Bird, Dizzy, Coltrane and Monk, to Bessie Smith, Chet Baker, Cab Calloway and even jazz poet Jack Kerouac.

JUSTCALENDARS.COM \$21



READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Three new and essential books elevate any jazz library...

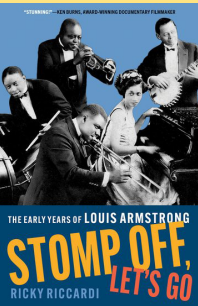
NOW JAZZ NOW (Escatic Peace Library) is by music writer Byron Coley with musicians Mats Gustafsson and Thurston Moore, who share a life-long mutual obsession to record collecting with a focus on Free Music. This illustrated 277-page collector’s guide to the 100 most essential free jazz and improvisation recordings, includes luminaries such as Cecil, Ayler, Dolphy, Ornette, Braxton and Shepp alongside their European counterparts Georgio Gaslini, Bengt “Frippe” Nordström, François Tusques, et al. with images of albums, singles and cassettes, along with Philippe Gras’ photos of many legendary improvisers.

ECSTATICPEACE.NET/NOW-JAZZ-NOW \$45



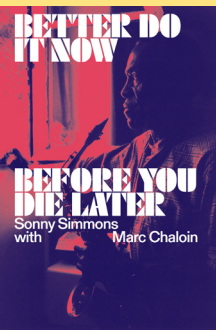
Stomp Off, Let's Go: The Early Years of Louis Armstrong (Oxford University Press) is by award-winning author Ricky Riccardi, one of the most knowledgeable and dedicated people on the planet when it comes to Satchmo. He’s the Director of Research Collections for the Louis Armstrong House Museum, giving him a leg up on first-hand materials, especially rare and unpublished items. Not only does Riccardi settle inconsistencies in Armstrong’s writings and provide several musicians’ reflections on Armstrong’s mentor, Joe “King” Oliver, but perhaps, most significant of all, honors Lillian “Lil” Hardin Armstrong as the architect of her husband’s career. Of course there’s much more, including an unpublished 1973 interview with Beatrice “Mama Lucy” Armstrong.

GLOBAL.OUP.COM \$35



Better Do It Now Before You Die Later (Blank Forms Editions), written with Sonny Simmons (1933-2021) by jazz historian/biographer Marc Chaloin, chronicles the life of the alto saxophonist. From NYC’s ‘60s free-jazz scene, Simmons quickly gained a reputation as an original player-composer, but he was nearly forgotten by the ‘80s, broke, dependent on drugs and alcohol and homeless. Yet, in 1994 he released *Ancient Ritual* (on Quincy Jones’ Qwest label), re-animating his career and placing him, for the last decades of his career, in the pantheon of great innovators. This long overdue bio brings to light the life of this still-undersung music master.

BLANKFORMS.ORG \$45



Holiday Fun!
Wycliffe Gordon (Arbors)
Swinging In The Holidays
Benny Benack, Champian Fulton, Anais Reno, et. al.
(Songbook Ink)
A Star's Light Does Fall
Margaret Slovak & Chris Mares (Slovak Music)
by Marilyn Lester

What’s the holiday season without festive music to celebrate it! Since 4th-century Rome, chanted Latin hymns have celebrated Christmas; in the 12th century, the monk, Adam of Saint Victor began incorporating melodies into religious music at Christmas time. But from 1521’s “Boar’s Head Carol”, the gates opened wide, leading to the plethora of sacred and fun music we have today to mark the holidays over a broad and varied spectrum of sound.

Fun is trombonist Wycliffe Gordon’s diverse, 13-track seasonal declaration and agenda in *Holiday Fun!* It’s a collective party putting the stamp of cool on the festive season. A swingin’ traditional carol, “Joy to the World”, is a call to action, with clever quotes, a New Orleans undertone and jam session vibe, joyously played by a jolly core band of Joe Boga (trumpet, vocals), Will Anderson (alto), Adrian Cunningham (tenor, soprano, clarinet, vocals), Carl Maraghi (baritone, vocals), Michael Tankley (guitar, background vocals), Ehud Asherie (piano, background vocals), Alvin Atkinson, Jr. (drums, background vocals) and Ashley “AE the Cool” Elm (vocals). Guest artists join in the fun too: Matthew McDonald (trombone), Philip Norris (bass, tuba), Chris Pattishall (piano), Yasushi Nakamura (bass), Dion Parson (drums, percussion) and Matthew Soares (cajón). That percussive tilt is heard subtly but effectively on “Do You Hear What I Hear?/Little Drummer Boy”, a reverential vocal feature by Elm, with an evocative chorus of male voices—a fresh and refreshing arrangement, characteristic of the entire album.

Swinging In The Holidays, the 16-track debut album from Songbook Ink, featuring liner notes by legendary tenor saxophonist-clarinetist Ken Peplowski, is performed by a cast of vocalists and several crews of musicians. Overall, the selections are solidly traditional, given juice by modern arrangements. The must-do “Christmas Song” is offered by the perpetually energetic, naturally swinging powerhouse of joy, trumpeter-vocalist Benny Benack III, who went full-out crooner here, even blowing with subdued elegance. Champian Fulton, who’s consistently reliable, and one of the most pleasurable of pianist-vocalists today, delivers “Winter Wonderland”, “Santa Baby” and “I’ve Got My Love to Keep Me Warm”, all with her light-as-air soprano and perfectly-phrased swing. Young up-and-comer Anais Reno has been expanding her horizons and with “Happy Holidays” demonstrates her natural feel for jazz in a track too dominated by its piano feature. Having achieved iconic stature, “White Christmas”, here with strings, is delivered in standard pop form by Angela Grey and Felix Peikli. Also appearing on the album are Vanessa Perea, Rob Edwards, Wyatt Michael, Olivia Chindamo and Conrad Paszkudzklei. While *Swinging In The Holidays* breaks no new ground in the genre, its more traditional approach is still festive and satisfying and offers great appeal for those seeking a classic holiday sound not necessarily rooted in a strong jazz tradition.

One of the most enduring symbols of Christmas is the star, the ever-bright, wondrous celestial body that heralded the birth of the newborn Christ. In this duo album of 11 tracks, *A Star’s Light Does Fall*, guitarist Margaret Slovak and bassist Chris Maresh offer powerful instrumentals specifically aimed at presenting music that “could bring comfort and peace to people during the holiday season, especially those facing life and health challenges or grieving...recent loss.” Slovak’s voicings with Maresh’s supportive bass lines create a unique and meditative sound. “I Wonder as I Wander” and “Some Children See Him” run into deeply contemplative territory. The traditional carol, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”, brings the listener to church, where lights are low and candles illuminate the space in anticipation of the coming of the Prince of Peace. Wayne Shorter’s “Infant Eyes” is in the mix, and in this pensive arrangement is an apt portal to understanding the spiritual territory Shorter came to explore. The pop world’s “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” reflects the lyric’s duality between present melancholy and future hope—promising that things will get better “if the fates allow.” Vince Guaraldi’s sweet and slow “Christmas Time Is Here” (from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*) evokes smiles in its calm but steadfast joy. Not typically associated with the holidays, closer, a shortened version of Leonard Cohen’s celebrated “Hallelujah”, becomes an uplifting hymn and a prayer in the duo’s hands. No matter what one’s personal circumstance, this album is balm for the spirit, music to savor over a relaxing hour, perhaps when lights are low by a crackling fire, drink of choice in hand.

For more info visit: arborsrecords.com, songbook-ink.com and margaretslovak.com. Slovak’s album release concert is at Soapbox Gallery Dec. 7. Swinging in the Holidays album release concert is at 54Below Dec. 21. See Calendar.