

On Sept. 28, 1955, a promising new jazz group played their first job at a small club in Baltimore called Anchors Inn. A month later, having signed with Columbia Records, the Miles Davis Quintet, featuring a relatively untested tenor saxophonist named John Coltrane, made the first in a series of recordings that would for all time define jazz in the 1950s: small band, flexibility, and an altogether fresh sense of style, musical and personal.

At the Newport Jazz Festival in the summer of '55, the brilliant trumpeter (1926-1991) had made a stunning "comeback" from a debilitating narcotics addiction—at least it was portrayed as such in the jazz press—with his sensational performance of "Round Midnight." It was no accident, then, that Thelonious Monk's rich, emotionally powerful ballad was selected as the title track for Davis' Columbia debut LP, an expanded edition of which is presented herein. Spotlighting the leader's brooding, instantly identifiable, Harmon-muted sound with which he would soon become synonymous, "Round Midnight" was perhaps foremost among the Davis ballads that brought a Sinatra or Holiday-like level of intimacy to the form.

But deep-night balladry was but one of the attributes of the group that would come to be known as Davis' "first great quintet." Whether rendering classic bebop (such as "Ah-Leu-Cha" and "Two Bass Hit"), the new hard bop ("Little Melonae"), show tunes and movie songs ("All Of You"), or overlooked old standards ("Bye Bye Blackbird," "Sweet Sue, Just You"), their cool mastery was absolute. And it was with this band that the trumpeter also established himself as a great evaluator and developer of talent; under his aegis, Coltrane's burgeoning gifts and the peerless rhythm section of Red Garland, Paul Chambers (20 years old in 1955) and Philly Joe Jones flourished as never before.

Taken from the much-praised boxed set *Miles Davis & John Coltrane: The Complete Columbia Recordings 1955-1961*, and annotated by Grammy®-winner Bob Blumenthal, these 10 selections from 1955-56, now beautifully remastered, were Davis' inaugural Columbia milestones. There were, of course, many, many more to come.



Original Recordings Produced
by George Avakian





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|--------------------------|------|
| 1 'Round Midnight | 5:55 |
| 2 Ah-Leu-Cha | 5:53 |
| 3 All Of You | 7:01 |
| 4 Bye Bye Blackbird | 7:54 |
| 5 Tadd's Delight | 4:26 |
| 6 Dear Old Stockholm | 7:49 |
| * 7 Two Bass Hit | 3:45 |
| * 8 Little Melonae | 7:18 |
| * 9 Budo | 4:14 |
| * 10 Sweet Sue, Just You | 3:39 |

***BONUS TRACK**

Miles Davis	trumpet
John Coltrane	tenor saxophone
Red Garland	piano
Paul Chambers	bass
Philly Joe Jones	drums

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