

CHARLIE PARKER ORNITHOLOGY: THE BEST OF BIRD

1. **KO-KO**
2. **NOW'S THE TIME**
3. **CHERYL**
4. **PARKER'S MOOD**
5. **BILLIE'S BOUNCE**
6. **DONNA LEE**
- LIVE AT CARNEGIE HALL
7. **CONFIRMATION**
- LIVE AT THE ROYAL ROOST
8. **ORNITHOLOGY**
9. **GROOVIN' HIGH**
10. **ANTHROPOLOGY**
- LIVE AT MASSEY HALL
11. **SALT PEANUTS**

This is music that demands our continued attention and focus, just as the continuing stature of Bird and bebop should in fact be questioned, if only to reconfirm his legendary status—a mantle he never grew comfortable with during his lifetime. Parker was challenged by that responsibility and by other demons, leading to an early demise at the age of 34. He died an exemplar of the African American propensity for creating new musical languages that achieve maximum reach even with limited resources—think spirituals and blues, and hip-hop.

The challenge today is to figure out how to make our contemporary ears know how intense and challenging Bird's music was in its day. How to feel how scary it once was. How it bent the ears of an entire generation in the 1940s, then held on, not letting go—and how the world changed.

*—excerpted from liner notes by
Ashley Kahn, included inside*



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