

The Curious Saxophonist's Listening Guide

In the 21st Century, we have documentation of over one-hundred years of recorded artistry of saxophone. I grew up looking for CD's in record stores, subscription catalogs, or my grandparent's shelves. Thankfully, I had a father who has a good base-line of jazz and a private instructor that had a good knowledge of classical saxophone literature. Here are some of the recordings that were fundamental in my development as a saxophonist and musician. Some of these CD's I listened to so many times that they got scratched up and don't work well anymore. I also bought a lot of albums on iTunes and put them on a first generation "iPod Shuffle" -- look it up. Here are the albums:

CLASSICAL SAXOPHONE

- "Saxophone Colors" - Eugene Rousseau
- "Music for Saxophone and Orchestra" - Theodore Kerkezos
- "Concert Recital for Saxophone" - Robert Black
- "Light of Sothis" - Debra Richtmeyer
- "Keneth Tse, Saxophone" - Keneth Tse
- "Double Exposure" - Victor Morosco
- "Tenor Excursions" - Steven Mauk
- "American Music for Saxophone" - Donald Sinta

JAZZ SAXOPHONE

- "Ellington at Newport" - Paul Gonsalves and Johnny Hodges (Columbia, 1956)
- "Saxophone Colossus" - Sonny Rollins (Prestige, 1956)
- "Somethin' Else" - Cannonball Adderley (Blue Note, 1958)
- "Kind of Blue" - Cannonball Adderley and John Coltrane (Columbia, 1959)
- "Johnny Hodges Meets Gerry Mulligan" - same as title (Verve, 1959)
- "Lush Life" - John Coltrane (Prestige, 1961)
- "Go" - Dexter Gordon (Blue Note, 1962)
- "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy" - Cannonball Adderley (Capitol, 1966)
- "Straight, No Chaser" - Charlie Rouse (Columbia, 1967)
- "It's Magic" - Sonny Stitt (Delmark, 1969)

I'm in no way advocating that these are "the albums" that everyone should listen to first, but I do believe that most would agree that these are quality recordings that are worth checking out. Anymore, you can use Spotify or YouTube to access all of these recordings pretty quickly. Make a playlist! Go listen!