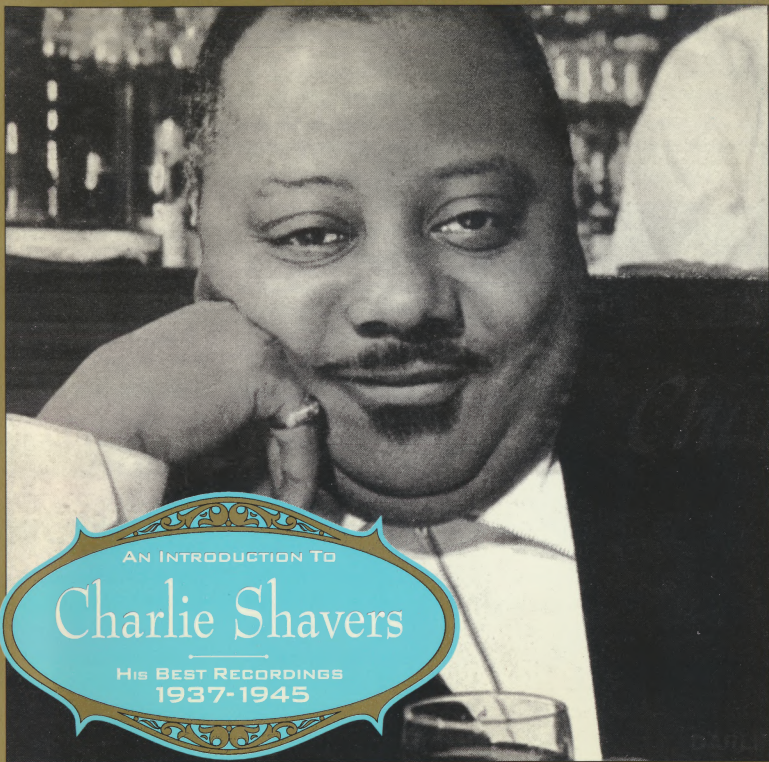


BEST OF JAZZ • THE SWING ERA



AN INTRODUCTION TO

Charlie Shavers

HIS BEST RECORDINGS
1937-1945

BEST OF JAZZ • THE SWING ERA

"Best Of Jazz" is a label devoted to the highlights of the swing era. Each CD features one important artist. For the first time a jazz anthology is being compiled by an international panel of experienced and respected specialists. This ensures that the selection does not reflect the preferences of one individual. Titles have been chosen by Preston Love, music teacher and former Count Basie and Johnny Otis saxophonist, Kurt Mohr, world renowned discographer, Duncan Schiedt, jazz photographer, record collector and well-known writer, Johnny Simmen, the jazz connoisseur most appreciated by musicians and critics & Jerry Valburn, U.S. jazz producer and leading expert on Ellingtonia.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. BLUE RHYTHM FANTASY (3:17)
<i>Mills Blue Rhythm Band</i> | 10. ANDIOLOGY (2:43)
<i>John Kirby & His Orchestra</i> | 18. EL SALON DE GUTBUCKET (2:56)
<i>Charlie Shavers All American Five</i> |
| 2. MELANCHOLY (2:39)
<i>Johnny Dodds & Chicago Boys</i> | 11. COQUETTE (2:54)
<i>John Kirby & His Orchestra</i> | 19. UNDECIDED (3:02)
<i>Charlie Shavers All American Five</i> |
| 3. UNDECIDED (2:57)
<i>John Kirby & Onyx Club Boys</i> | 12. CLOSE SHAVE (2:28)
<i>John Kirby & His Orchestra</i> | 20. CHINA BOY (2:11)
<i>Teddy Wilson</i> |
| 4. EFFERVESCENT BLUES (2:46)
<i>John Kirby & His Orchestra</i> | 13. TWEED ME (2:46)
<i>John Kirby & His Orchestra</i> | 21. AT THE FAT MAN'S (3:01)
<i>Tommy Dorsey & His Orchestra</i> |
| 5. SWEET GEORGIA BROWN (2:47)
<i>John Kirby & His Orchestra</i> | 14. 12TH STREET RAG (2:56)
<i>Sidney Bechet & N.O. Feetwarmers</i> | 22. DIZZY'S DILEMMA (2:56)
<i>Charlie Shavers Quintet</i> |
| 6. ROYAL GARDEN BLUES (2:29)
<i>John Kirby & His Orchestra</i> | 15. NO BLUES AT ALL (2:00)
<i>John Kirby & His Orchestra</i> | |
| 7. BLUE SKIES (2:37)
<i>John Kirby & His Orchestra</i> | 16. YOU'RE DRIVING ME CRAZY (4:10)
<i>The Keynoters</i> | |
| 8. BLUES PETITE (3:07)
<i>John Kirby & His Orchestra</i> | 17. I'M IN THE MARKET FOR YOU (4:33)
<i>The Keynoters</i> | |
| 9. ECCENTRIC RAG (2:48)
<i>Buster Bailey & His Orchestra</i> | | |

BEST OF JAZZ 4065

DK 003

A.A.D.

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO



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BEST OF JAZZ 4065

CHARLIE SHAVERS

THE SWING ERA

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Charlie Shavers

Born in New York City, Charlie Shavers (1917-71) was musically precocious. He could play both banjo and piano by the time he was ten and not many years later was working as the pianist at Tilly's Chicken Shack in Harlem. Nevertheless his father was a trumpeter and young Shavers found

the trumpet more appealing. He rapidly developed a technical prowess on that instrument which could vie with Louis Armstrong or Roy Eldridge (Best Of Jazz 4004 and 4051) though his temperament was more light-hearted and his music rarely achieved the depth of emotion which

those two men could generate. After working with Tiny Bradshaw at the age of eighteen and later joining Lucky Millinder's reconstructed Mills Blue Rhythm Band (B.O.J. 4009) Shavers was snapped up by John Kirby in late 1937 for a new group which was to become extremely popular. The Kirby sex-

tet played tightly arranged "chamber music" jazz and Shavers stayed with them for six years, contributing compositions and arrangements as well as witty, often intense trumpet solos. His fame established, Shavers joined Tommy Dorsey (B.O.J. 4029) in 1945 and remained involved with Dorsey over the next eleven years though he frequently left and rejoined the band. Although Shavers had the technical facility to play the "bebop" style of jazz (see B.O.J. 4064 featuring Dizzy Gillespie, born the same year as Shavers) his inclination was to remain with the rhythmic and harmonic conventions of the thirties. He wor-

ked with Jazz At The Philharmonic and also with Benny Goodman and his capabilities made him very welcome as a freelance studio musician. His final recordings were done in France in 1970 and he died the following year, two days after Louis Armstrong. Hearing of Armstrong's death and knowing that his own was imminent, Shavers requested that his mouthpiece should be buried in Armstrong's coffin. This selection opens with "Blue Rhythm Fantasy" which Shavers

recorded at his very first studio date. He begins his solo in sober style but soon moves into some more typical double-time flamboyance. Invited the





following year to join veteran clarinetist Johnny Dodds (B.O.J. 4014) for a single recording session, Shavers plays a restrained solo and combines well with Dodds in the final ensemble. The next six tracks are by Kirby's band and the first is the best known of the trumpeter's compositions. "Undecided" became a standard and has been played at num-

berless jam sessions and record dates since this first recording. Here and on the other titles particular rhythmic buoyancy is engendered by Russell Procope, Billy Kyle and drummer O'Neil Spencer while the natural extroversion of Shavers is mostly muted and tightly controlled. He does however show his more exuberant side in his second solo on "Royal Garden Blues". "Eccentric Rag" features Benny Carter (B.O.J. 4001) as well as leader Buster Bailey (B.O.J. 4038) in a reversion to the repertoire of two decades earlier. The Kirby band then returns for four more samples of its neat

precision before "Twelfth Street Rag" provides a powerful contrast as Shavers unleashes his exuberance beside the throbbing clarinet of the great Sidney Bechet (B.O.J. 4017). The very fast "No Blues At All" is the final track by the Kirby group and fittingly features the leader in a solo. The next two titles combine Shavers with trumpeter Jonah Jones who plays the first solo on "You're Driving Me Crazy" with Shavers taking the bridge of the first chorus and soloing after the driving tenor of Budd Johnson (who was to join him a quarter of a century later on his final tour of Europe). "I'm In The



Russell Procope.

Market" is introduced by Shavers before Jones plays the theme and Shavers returns with some striking high notes for the final half-chorus. He is in fiery form again beside the great Coleman Hawkins (B.O.J. 4049) on "El Salon De Gutbucket" and a new version of "Undecided". Both Teddy Wilson (B.O.J. 4044) and Tommy Dorsey were employers of Shavers and he can be heard

with these two men on the next two titles. He plays with great ferocity on "China Boy" but "At The Fat Man's" presents him in the less familiar role of entertaining vocalist, before his familiar, brassy trumpet sound leads to the climax. The concluding "Dizzy's Dilemma" tips its hat to Gillespie and the developing bebop movement but Shavers was an indivi-

dualist who had discovered his own style at an early age and saw no reason to change it. His easily recognizable sound and approach were to be heard for many more years but the essentials of his music, whether restrained or impetuous, are to be found in these early demonstrations of his trumpet mastery. *Graham Colomé*
Jazz Journal International



Charlie Shavers & Billy Kyle.

TITLES SELECTED BY :

PRESTON LOVE

Born in Omaha, Nebraska, 1921. A master of alto sax who played with Billie Holiday and in bands such as Lloyd Hunter, Nat Towles, Lucky Millinder, Count Basie (replacing Earle Warren on first alto), Johnny Otis & own bands. Many recordings & 9 European tours. Honorary Doctorate of music from Creighton University (1992). Music teacher and columnist for the Sunday World-Herald.

KURT MOHR

Born in Geneva, 1921. Moved to Paris in 1954 as music critic and discographer. Regular contributor to magazines such as Jazz Hot and Rock & Folk as well as discographies by Ch. Delaunay, J.G. Jepsen, M. Ruppli. Programs for Swiss and French radios. Addicted to nicotine, prime numbers, discography and... music.

DUNCAN SCHIEDT

Born in Atlantic City, N.J. in 1921. Jazz interests began while attending school in England in mid-1930s. A pianist since age 13, and a record collector since 1936. Began jazz photography in 1938, contributed to innumerable books, magazines, albums. Recently began museum exhibitions. Author of "The Jazz State Of Indiana" and co-author of the book "Ain't Misbehavin'".

JOHNNY SIMMEN

Born in Brugg (Switzerland), 1918. Has an "encyclopaedic" knowledge of jazz borne out from tirelessly listening to the music, as well as talking and corresponding with the musicians. Wrote over 3000 articles for various jazz magazines and preparing on-board programs for Swissair. An expert in presenting musical lectures although he loathes being called a collector or a critic.

JERRY VALBURN

Born in New York, 1925. Fell in love with jazz at age 13 and built up a huge record collection (now at the Library of Congress) mainly centered on Duke Ellington, his great favorite. Worked as audio-engineer and producer in both broadcasting and recording. Did discographical research and wrote two books on Ellington.

Front photo, p. 4 Zwonicek coll., 3, 5 l. Gottlieb, 5 r., 11 D. Schiedt coll. (both by T. Rosenkrantz).
Reissue produced by Gilles Pétard. Special thanks to Léon Dierckx. Consultant : Yvan Fournier.

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|---|---|
| 1. BLUE RHYTHM FANTASY 3:17
<i>(Hill-Willett)</i> | 12. CLOSE SHAVE 2:28
<i>(Shavers-Kirby)</i> |
| 2. MELANCHOLY 2:30
<i>(Bloom-Melrose)</i> | 13. TWEED ME 2:46
<i>(Kyle)</i> |
| 3. UNDECIDED 2:57
<i>(Shavers)</i> | 14. 12TH STREET RAG 2:56
<i>(Sumner-Bowman)</i> |
| 4. EFFERVESCENT BLUES 2:46
<i>(Shavers)</i> | 15. NO BLUES AT ALL 2:00
<i>(Kyle)</i> |
| 5. SWEET GEORGIA BROWN 2:47
<i>(Bernie-Casey-Pinkard)</i> | 16. YOU'RE DRIVING ME CRAZY 4:10
<i>(Donaldson)</i> |
| 6. ROYAL GARDEN BLUES 2:20
<i>(Williams-Williams)</i> | 17. I'M IN THE MARKET FOR YOU 4:33
<i>(Hanley-Carthy)</i> |
| 7. BLUE SKIES 2:37
<i>(Berlin)</i> | 18. EL SALON DE GUTBUCKET 2:56
<i>(Shavers)</i> |
| 8. BLUES PETITE 3:07
<i>(Shavers)</i> | 19. UNDECIDED 3:02
<i>(Shavers)</i> |
| 9. ECCENTRIC RAG 2:48
<i>(Robinson)</i> | 20. CHINA BOY 2:11
<i>(Winfree-Boutelje)</i> |
| 10. ANDIOLOGY 2:43
<i>(Shavers-Kirby)</i> | 21. AT THE FAT MAN'S 3:01
<i>(Oliver)</i> |
| 11. COQUETTE 2:54
<i>(Berlin)</i> | 22. DIZZY'S DILEMMA 2:56
<i>(Shavers)</i> |

DISCOGRAPHY

LUCKY MILLINDER WITH MILLS BLUE RHYTHM BAND: Lucky Millinder dir. Charlie Shavers - Carl Warwick - Harry Edison - t/Sandy Watson - Wilbur de Paris - tb/Tab Smith - as/Eddie Williams - Ronald Haynes - Harold Arnold - ts/Billy Kyle - p/Danny Barker - g/John Williams - b/Lester Nichols - d - vib/Chappie Willet - a.

M-1-2 **BLUE RHYTHM FANTASY** - aCW *New York, February 11, 1937.*
Variety 503

JOHNNY DODDS AND HIS CHICAGO BOYS: Charlie Shavers - t/Johnny Dodds - cl/Lil Armstrong - p/Teddy Bunn - g/John Kirby - b/O'Neil Spencer - d.

63190-A **MELANCHOLY** *New York, January 21, 1938.*
Decca 1676

JOHN KIRBY AND HIS ONYX CLUB BOYS: John Kirby - b dir. Charlie Shavers - t/Buster Bailey - cl/Russell Procope - as/Billy Kyle - p/O'Neil Spencer - d.

64711-A **UNDECIDED** *New York, October 28, 1938.*
Decca 2216

JOHN KIRBY AND HIS ORCHESTRA: same.

23936-1 **EFFERVESCENT BLUES** *New York, January 9, 1939.*
Vocalion 4624

JOHN KIRBY AND HIS ORCHESTRA: same.

24678-B **SWEET GEORGIA BROWN** *New York, May 10, 1939.*
Columbia 36001

JOHN KIRBY AND HIS ORCHESTRA: same.

24946-A **ROYAL GARDEN BLUES** *New York, July 28, 1939.*
Vocalion 5187

JOHN KIRBY AND HIS ORCHESTRA: same.

24996-A **BLUE SKIES** *New York, August 10, 1939.*
Vocalion 5187

JOHN KIRBY AND HIS ORCHESTRA: John Kirby - b dir. Charlie Shavers - t/Buster Bailey - cl/Russell Procope - as/Billy Kyle - p-a/O'Neil Spencer - d.

26855-A **BLUES PETITE** *New York, May 27, 1940.*
Okeh 5805

BUSTER BAILEY AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Charlie Shavers - t/Buster Bailey - cl/Benny Carter - as/Billy Kyle - p/John Kirby - b/Zutty Singleton - d.

US-1844-1 **ECCENTRIC RAG** *New York, June 10, 1940.*
Varsity 8365

JOHN KIRBY AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Charlie Shavers - t/Buster Bailey - cl/Russell Procope - as/Billy Kyle - p/John Kirby - b/O'Neil Spencer - d.

26997-A **ANDIOLOGY** *New York, July 9, 1940.*
28003-A **COQUETTE** Okeh 5805
Columbia 35999

JOHN KIRBY AND HIS ORCHESTRA: same.

066895-1 **CLOSE SHAVE** *New York, July 25, 1941.*
Victor 27568

JOHN KIRBY AND HIS ORCHESTRA: as above, but Specs Powell - d replaces Spencer.

067978-1 **TWEED ME** *New York, October 7, 1941.*
Victor 27667

SIDNEY BECHET AND HIS NEW ORLEANS FEETWARMERS: Charlie Shavers - t/Sidney Bechet - cl - ss/Willie "The Lion" Smith - p/Everett Barksdale - g/Wellman Braud - b/Sidney Catlett - d.

068112-1 **12TH STREET RAG** *New York, October 24, 1941.*
Victor 20-3120

JOHN KIRBY AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Charlie Shavers - t/Buster Bailey - cl/Russell Procope - as/Billy Kyle - p/John Kirby - b/Specs Powell - d.

071902-1 **NO BLUES AT ALL** *New York, February 11, 1942.*
Victor 27926

THE KEYNOTERS: Charlie Shavers-t/Jonah Jones-t/Budd Johnson-ts/Johnny Guarnieri-p/Milt Hinton-b/J.C. Heard-d.

HL-41-2 **YOU'RE DRIVING ME CRAZY**
HL-42-1 **I'M IN THE MARKET FOR YOU**

New York, June 8, 1944.
Keynote 1313
Keynote 1313

CHARLIE SHAVERS' ALL AMERICAN FIVE: Charlie Shavers-t/Coleman Hawkins-ts/Teddy Wilson-p/Billy Taylor-b/Denzil Best-d.

HL-69-1 **EL SALON DE GUTBUCKET**
HL-71- **UNDECIDED**

New York, October 18, 1944.
Keynote 619
Keynote rejected

TEDDY WILSON: Charlie Shavers-t/Teddy Wilson-p/Remo Palmieri-g/Al Hall-b/Gordon "Specs" Powell-d/Red Norvo-vib.

CHINA BOY

New York, c. November, 1944.
V-Disc rejected

TOMMY DORSEY AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Tommy Dorsey-tb dir. Gerald Goff-Mickey Mangano-George Seaberg-t/Charlie Shavers-t-v/Bill Hallar-Karl De Karske-Ted Satterwhite-tb/Sid Cooper-as/Buddy DeFranco-cl-as/Babe Fresk-Dave Harris-ts/Bruce Branson-bar/Johnny Potaker-p/Sam Herman-g/Sid Block-b/Buddy Rich-d/Sy Oliver-a.

D5VB-618 **AT THE FAT MAN'S** - vCS/aSO

Los Angeles, September 20, 1945.
Victor 20-1737

THE CHARLIE SHAVERS QUINTET: Charlie Shavers-t/Buddy De Franco-cl/John Potaker-p/Sid Block-b/Alvin Stoller-d.

P-94 **DIZZY'S DILEMMA**

New York, late 1945.
Vogue R754

BEST OF JAZZ • THE SWING ERA SERIES

4052 BEN WEBSTER	4057 ALBERT AMMONS	4062 CASA LOMA ORCH.
4053 ANDY KIRK	4058 HELEN HUMES	4063 SLIM GAILLARD
4054 LOUIS JORDAN	4059 HARRY JAMES	4064 DIZZY GILLESPIE
4055 ILLINOIS JACQUET	4060 ERSKINE HAWKINS	4065 CHARLIE SHAVERS
4056 GENE KRUPA	4061 NAT "KING" COLE	4066 EDDIE CONDON...



John Kirby, Buster Bailey, Charlie Shavers, Maxine Sullivan & O'Neil Spencer.



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