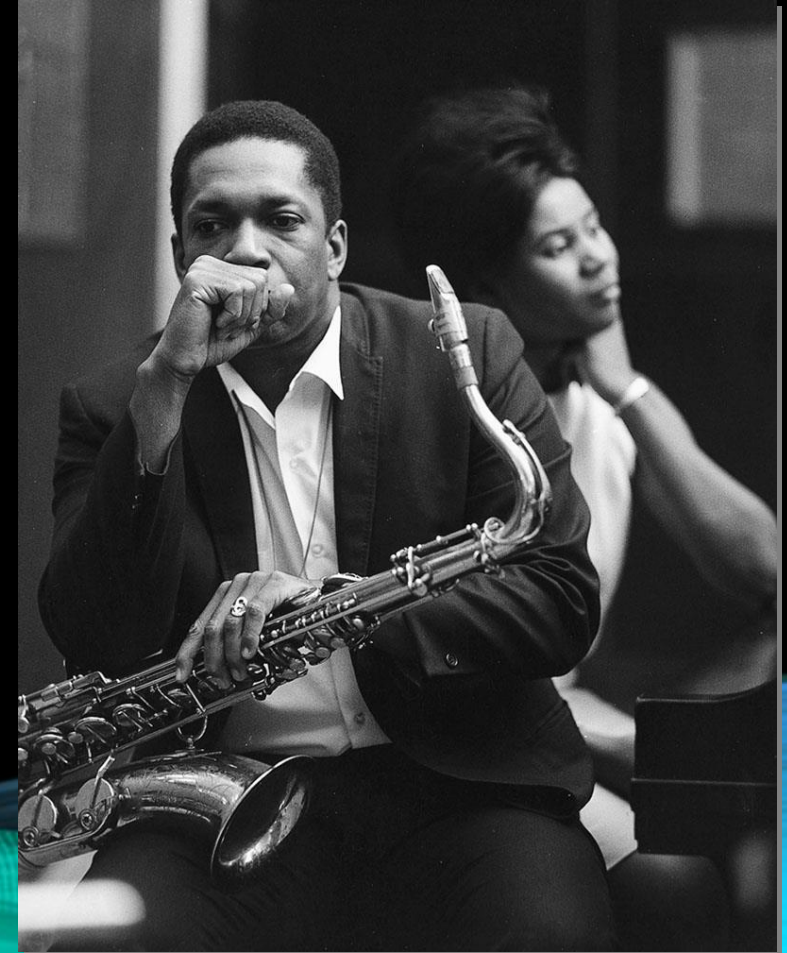
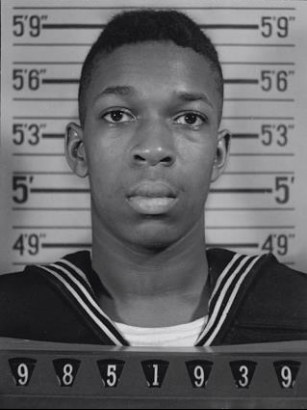


JOHN COLTRANE





EARLY YEARS

- Born in Hamlet, NC September 23, 1926
- Learned to play the clarinet and alto saxophone
- Worked with local rhythm and blues bands
- Joined the Navy during WWII – played in the Navy Band in Hawaii from 1945-6
- Began playing tenor working with Dizzy Gillespie in 1949



Tenor Sax

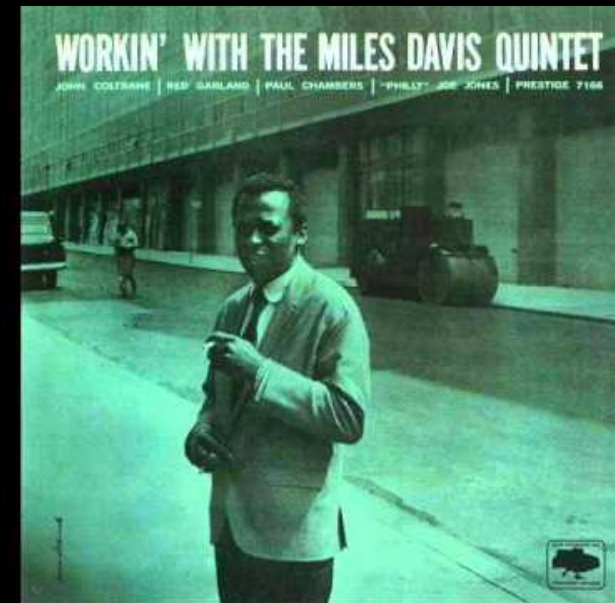


Alto Sax



WITH MILES DAVIS (THE FIRST TIME)

- Joined the Miles Davis Quintet in 1955
- This is Coltrane's EARLY period. Coltrane is playing Bebop Jazz
- Some critics felt that Coltrane's sound was too "angry" and that his solos were too long.
- Fired in late 1956 because of his heroin addiction.





WITH THELONIOUS MONK AND AS A LEADER

- Spiritual awakening
- Kicked Heroin
- Released *Blue Train* in 1957
- Miles Davis – “Trane was blowing his ass off”



JOHN COLTRANE GIANT STEPS



MILES AGAIN

- Now that he was clean, Coltrane rejoined Miles in 1959.
- Recorded *Kind of Blue* with Miles and *Giant Steps* as a leader.
- Coltrane's playing sometimes described as "sheets of sound" (Ira Gitler)



Sheets of Sound

- Squeeze every possible harmonic implication into your solo.
- Every possible chord and scale for each chord
- Play REALLY fast
- Increased speed of Jazz improvisation



A Love Supreme/John Coltrane



Middle Period - THE JOHN COLTRANE QUARTET

- *A Love Supreme* (1965)
- Coltrane continued to go beyond the conventions of jazz performance.
- Started to move away from conventional rhythmic patterns.
- Refers to Coltrane's religious experience and his freedom from drug addiction

A Love Supreme/John Coltrane



AFTER *LOVE SUPREME*

- Formed a new group with Avant-Garde musicians:
 - Rashied Ali
 - Alice Coltrane (his 2nd wife)
 - Various drummers
- Also recorded with a quintet that included bassist Garrison and Pharoah Sanders.



LATE PERIOD - AVANT-GARDE OR FREE JAZZ

- Coltrane was at the forefront of a new style of Jazz called Avant-Garde or Free Jazz
 - Free of structure or rules.
 - Irregular rhythmic patterns.
 - Long improvisational solos

DEATH

- Coltrane died of liver cancer at Huntington Hospital on Long Island on July 17, 1967, at the age of 40.
- One of his biographers, Lewis Porter, has suggested that the cause of Coltrane's illness was hepatitis, although he also attributed the disease to Coltrane's heroin use



SIGNIFICANCE

- One of the founding fathers of Be-Bop Jazz
- Leader of the Avant-Garde Jazz movement
- Greatest Saxophone player ever?

Activity (Play in order) People guess which music era

