



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF PRESTIGE RECORDS

- THE VERY BEST OF PRESTIGE RECORDS
- &
- PRESTIGE RECORDS: THE ALBUM COVER COLLECTION
- &
- FOUR NEW REISSUES OF CLASSIC RECORDINGS
- &
- AUDIO PODCASTS

OUT 2ND NOVEMBER 2009

When producer Bob Weinstock founded Prestige Records in 1949, little did he know that his tiny independent recording company would become iconic in documenting an era when jazz was in its golden age. Like several other prominent jazz producers of the Fifties, he started out as a traditional jazz fan but soon found himself standing at the cutting edge of modern jazz, recording such giants as **Gene Ammons, Sonny Stitt, Miles Davis, Sonny Rollins, Eric Dolphy, Thelonious Monk, the Modern Jazz Quartet, and John Coltrane.**

In 1958, Weinstock handed the reins to other producers and Prestige soon became the leading purveyor of what is now known as acid jazz with its recordings of Jack McDuff, Richard "Groove" Holmes, Charles Earland, and others.

The Very Best of Prestige Records celebrates the 60th anniversary of this iconic label and documents the very best from its first two decades; 1949–1969, with tracks culled from its immense catalogue. The collection opens a wide window on a 20-year period when jazz made great evolutionary strides, from bebop to soul jazz.

Astonishingly, the artists on this collection have collectively sold more than 22 million records in the SoundScan era alone (since 1991).

Opening with two of Prestige's earliest tracks by **Lee Konitz and Lennie Tristano** and **James Moody**, the compilation features music by artists who today are considered to be the titans of jazz, including Coltrane, Miles, Dolphy, Dexter Gordon, Monk and Rollins, as well as the Red Garland Trio, Yusef Lateef, and many more. The 25-track collection, packed with classic photographs, is a must-have for



Prestige aficionados as well as young fans wanting to build their jazz libraries.



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Prestige Records: The Album Cover Collection is a deluxe, limited-edition coffee table book, showcasing the most memorable, and some of the rarest Prestige album covers, and is published to coincide with the labels anniversary.



The book features an introduction by famed jazz documentarian Ira Gitler, who wrote liner notes for many of Prestige's most well-known records (and continues to contribute notes for Concord's ongoing Rudy Van Gelder Remasters series). His introduction tracks the genesis and evolution of the Prestige label and the concurrent evolution of the design aesthetic that defined its covers. The cover photography, typography, and overall design aesthetic played an important role in the label's appeal among jazz listeners and are every bit a reflection of the timeless artistry of Prestige, as are the legendary jazz recordings they represent.



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In addition, the Prestige birthday celebration will continue with audio podcasts from legendary engineer **Rudy Van Gelder** reflecting on the early days of the Prestige label and its various artists, while UK based music collector and broadcast, Brian Hurst compiles his own selection of tracks and commentary available at he concord site and his own site, www.soulandjazz.com



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Concord Music Group continue their reissue series with four more essential jazz classics, originally released on Prestige on which the legendary Rudy Van Gelder he was the original engineer on the sessions. Each CD includes original and new liner notes, and 24-bit remastering. "I remember the sessions well" says Van Gelder, "I remember how the musicians wanted to sound. I feel strongly that I am their messenger."

The Garland Quintet with John Coltrane: dig it!
Sonny Rollins with Thelonious Monk + Kenny Dorham: Moving Out
Thelonious Monk Quintet: Monk

Miles Davis & Sonny Rollins – 'The Classic Prestige Sessions, 1951 – 1956'

Writing in the liner notes of *The Very Best of Prestige Records*, noted US jazz radio personality Bob Porter says, "Credit the Concord Music Group for resurgence in the interest of the Prestige label, with collections such as this one, and the acclaimed *Rudy Van Gelder Remasters* series of Prestige reissues. It may no longer be 'new jazz,' but 60 years after its first recording date, (the label) remains a vitally important and historic legacy of jazz recordings - fully deserving of its name, Prestige"

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