

Throwback: Miles Davis-So What

Miles Davis moved away from his hard bop style of jazz for his 1959 album *Kind Of Blue*. Davis had seen the Ballets Africains from Guinea in 1958 and he was aware of George Russell's music theory book *Lydian Chromatic Concept Of Tonal Organization*. Pianist Bill Evans had worked with Russell, who was also a piano player, before joining Davis's group in 1958. These things influenced Davis's choice to record modal jazz, which emphasized slow changes of the scales used to improvise a solo instead of the speed attributed to the chord changes in bebop and hard bop. The contemplative approach to "So What" had a fluid charm that Davis's horn commanded with a newfound sensitivity. Evans and bass player Paul Chambers' introduction started the album with what became the most recognized first seconds of a jazz song. The new style of Davis's music made *Kind Of Blue* the most sold jazz album ever and many critics considered it his greatest work. John Coltrane, who played on the album, would use these ideas in his future landmark recordings like *My Favorite Things* and *A Love Supreme*. Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter and Pharoah Sanders were also influenced by *Kind Of Blue*. The impact of the album went beyond jazz with rock artists The Allman Brothers and Pink Floyd referencing how KOB affected their music. James Brown's saxophonist Alfred "Pee Wee" Ellis used Davis's "So What" to co-write "Cold Sweat" with Brown.Â

The 50th Anniversary edition of *Kind Of Blue* was released in 2008. On June 25th, [Merci Miles! Live At Vienne](#) will be released on Rhino Records.Â



Miles Davis's Moon Dreams Gets Video



Miles Davis's "Moon Dreams" from *The Complete Birth of the Cool Collection* gets a video. The set was released in June and it was designed to honor the 70th anniversary of Davis's *Birth of the Cool* recording sessions which are regarded as his first career breakthrough. The video for "Moon Dreams" is influenced by Davis's personal sketches and New York City at night through every era of jazz. The recording sessions for the *Birth of the Cool* took place in 1949-50 and were released in 1957. This period of Davis's career is noted for creating cool jazz and helping the genre move away from bebop. Davis continues to influence music 28 years after his passing.

[youtube id="Tcg2Do13RJc"]

The Miles Davis Legendary Prestige Quintet Sessions

Receiving Vinyl Box Set Release



Miles Davis Credit: Herman
Leonard

Miles Davis' *Legendary Prestige Quintet Sessions* is getting a vinyl box set release. The collection of albums from the 1955-1956 period recorded with famous engineer Rudy Van Gelder was first released as a CD box set in 2006. Davis' work with his first quintet at that time is recognized as being a nucleus of the hard-bop jazz era. He hired pianist Red Garland, bassist Paul Chambers, drummer Philly Joe Jones and tenor saxophonist John Coltrane who replaced Sonny Rollins. Those sessions produced five albums: *Miles: The New Miles Davis Quintet*, *Cookin'*, *Relaxin'*, *Workin'* and *Steamin'*. A bonus album has eight TV and radio appearances including live performances at Café Bohemia, the Blue Note in Philadelphia and *Tonight Starring Steve Allen*. The collection was pressed on 180-gram vinyl and they are housed in a 20-page hardcover linen notebook with liner notes from jazz historian Bob Blumenthal. The new box set comes at the time of Prestige's 70th anniversary. The official release date is November 8th and there is a [pre-order](#) option.



Amerigo Gazaway Remixes Miles Davis' Rubberband Of Life Feat. Ledisi



Amerigo Gazaway has remixed Miles Davis' "Rubberband Of Life" with a feature from Ledisi. Davis recorded "Rubberband Of Life" in 1985 and 1986 for Columbia Records and there were plans for Al Jarreau and Chaka Khan to be included but the project was shelved and Davis went on to record Tutu. Davis' nephew Vince Wilburn worked with original producers Randy Hall and Zane Giles in 2017 to bring the title track into the 21st century. Ledisi was invited to record on the song at Village Studios in Los Angeles and the sessions were released as a 45 rpm 12" vinyl EP on Record Store Day 2018. The 5-song EP is now available digitally with Gazaway's new remix. The producer took his love of Davis' music further with the [Miles & More](#) mix that includes samples, songs and remixes inspired by the late trumpeter.Â