

with Buddy Rich in 1968 before getting seriously ill and seeking rehabilitation at Synanon (1969–1971). Pepper began his serious comeback in 1975 and the unthinkable happened: Under the guidance and inspiration of his wife Laurie, Pepper not only recovered his former form, but topped himself with intense solos that were quite unique; he also enjoyed playing clarinet occasionally. His recordings for Contemporary and Galaxy rank with the greatest work of his career. Pepper's autobiography *Straight Life* (written with his wife) is a brutally honest book that details his sometimes horrifying life. Art Pepper died of a cerebral hemorrhage on June 15, 1982 at the age of 56.

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ART PEPPER QUARTET



Despite a remarkably colorful and difficult life, Art Pepper was quite consistent in the recording studios; virtually every recording he made is well worth hearing. In the 1950s, he was one of the few altoists (along with Lee Konitz and Paul Desmond) who was able to develop his own sound despite the dominant influence of Charlie Parker. During his last years, Pepper seemed to put all of his life's experiences into his music and he played with startling emotional intensity.

Modern Jazz Classics After a brief stint with Gus Arnheim, Pepper played with mostly black groups on Central Avenue in Los Angeles. He spent a little time in the Benny Carter and Stan Kenton orchestras before serving time in the

military (1944–1946). Some of Pepper's happiest days were during his years with Stan Kenton (1947–1952), although he became a heroin addict during that period. The '50s found the altoist recording frequently both as a leader and a sideman, resulting in at least two classics (Plays Modern Jazz Classics and Meets the Rhythm Section), but he also served two jail sentences stemming from drug offenses in 1953 and 1956. Pepper was in top form during his Contemporary recordings of 1957–1960, but the first half of his career ended abruptly with long prison sentences that dominated the '60s. His occasional gigs between jail terms found him adopting a harder tone influenced by John Coltrane that disturbed some of his longtime followers. He recorded



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- 1 Blues In 5:40
- 2 Bewitched 4:25
- 3 When You're Smiling 4:47
- 4 Cool Bunny 4:10
- 5 Diannes' Dilemma 3:46
- 6 Stompin' At The Savoy 5:01
- 7 What Is This Thing Called Love 6:00
- 8 Blues Out 4:53
- Total Time: 38:42

Alto Saxophone – Art Pepper Bass – Ben Tucker
 Drums – Chuck Flores Piano – Russ Freeman

Recorded by Intro Records in Three Sessions

One and two: Friday, December 28th, 1956 Third: January 14, 1957.

Recording Engineers – Bunny Robine & Thorne Nogar Producer - Donald D. Clark

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