

States, he formed big swing bands in New York and California. Carter settled permanently in Los Angeles in 1945, where he concentrated largely on compositions for films and television, though he sometimes played alto saxophone on jazz tours and recordings.

Carter's saxophone work at its best is characterized by purity of tone, elegant ornamentation, rhythmic precision and swing, and diatonic phrasing; often it features closely constructed lines based on the development of simple musical motifs. As an arranger he was especially noted for his scoring for woodwind sections, and he composed attractive songs such as "Waltzing the Blues," "Blue Star," and "When Lights Are Low."



FURTHER DEFINITIONS

BENNY CARTER

AND HIS ORCHESTRA

COLEMAN HAWKINS
JO JONES
PHIL WOODS
CHARLES ROUSE
DICK KATZ
JIMMY GARRISON
JOHN COLLINS

Altoist/arranger Benny Carter's classic *Further Definitions* is a revisiting, instrumentation-wise, to the famous 1937 session that Carter and tenor saxophonist Coleman Hawkins made in France with two top European saxophonists (Andre Ekyan and Alix Combelle) and guitarist Django Reinhardt. The all-star group (which also includes Hawkins, altoist Phil Woods, Charlie Rouse on second tenor, pianist Dick Katz, guitarist John Collins, bassist Jimmy Garrison, and drummer Jo Jones) performs a particularly inspired repertoire. Carter's charts, which allow Hawkins to stretch out on "Body and Soul," give everyone a chance to shine. "Honeysuckle Rose" and "Crazy Rhythm" hold their own with the 1937 versions, and "Blue Star" and "Doozy" prove to be two of Carter's finest originals. Although Benny Carter was not actively playing much at the time (this was his only small-group recording during 1963–1975), he is heard in typically prime form.

Benny Carter, byname of Bennett Lester Carter, (born August 8, 1907, New York, New York, U.S.—died July 12, 2003, Los Angeles, California), American jazz musician, an original and influential alto saxophonist, who was also a masterly composer and arranger and an important bandleader, trumpeter, and clarinetist.

Carter grew up in New York City and attended Wilberforce College briefly before joining, as alto saxophonist and arranger, a series of big bands, including those led by Charlie Johnson, Horace Henderson, Chick Webb, and Fletcher Henderson. Carter had learned the trumpet during his youth and began doubling on that instrument while leading McKinney's Cotton Pickers (1931–32); he then led his own big band in 1932–34. He spent most of 1935–38 playing and arranging in Europe. When he returned to the United

FURTHER DEFINITIONS

BENNY CARTER AND HIS ORCHESTRA

- 1 Honeysuckle Rose 4:00
- 2 The Midnight Sun Will Never Set 3:55
- 3 Crazy Rhythm 3:23
- 4 Blue Star 5:20
- 5 Cotton Tail 4:25
- 6 Body & Soul 4:10
- 7 Cherry 4:53
- 8 Doozy 3:32

Saxophone (Alto) - Benny Carter, Phil Woods

Saxophone (Tenor) - Charlie Rouse, Coleman Hawkins

Bass - Jimmy Garrison Drums - Jo Jones Guitar - John Collins Piano - Dick Katz

Recording Info: Recorded by Impulse November 13 and 15, 1961. Producer - Bob Thiele



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