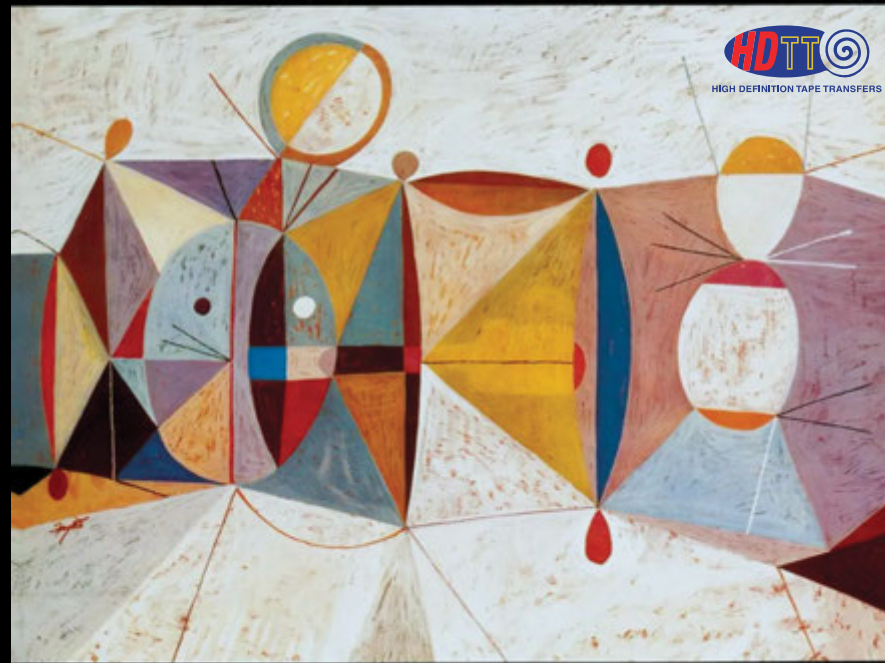




MINGUS AH UM / CHARLES MINGUS

BETTER GIT IT IN YOUR SOUL / GOODBYE PORK PIE HAT / BOOGIE STOP SHUFFLE / SELF-PORTRAIT IN THREE COLORS / OPEN LETTER TO DUKE / BIRD CALLS / FABLES OF FAUBUS / PUSSY CAT DUES / JELLY ROLL

HD TT 
HIGH DEFINITION TAPE TRANSFERS



DSD256
DSD

Mastered in DSD256

Charles Mingus' debut for Columbia, *Mingus Ah Um* is a stunning summation of the bassist's talents and probably the best reference point for beginners. While there's also a strong case for *The Black Saint and the Sinner Lady* as his best work overall, it lacks *Ah Um*'s immediate accessibility and brilliantly sculpted individual tunes.

Mingus' compositions and arrangements were always extremely focused, assimilating individual spontaneity into a firm consistency of mood, and that approach reaches an ultra-tight zenith on *Mingus Ah Um*. The band includes longtime Mingus stalwarts already well versed in his music, like saxophonists John Handy, Shafi Hadi, and Booker Ervin; trombonists Jimmy Knepper and Willie Dennis; pianist Horace Parlan; and drummer Dannie Richmond. Their razor-sharp performances tie together what may well be Mingus' greatest, most emotionally varied set of compositions. At least three became instant classics, starting with the irrepressible spiritual exuberance of signature tune "Better Get It in Your Soul," taken

in a hard-charging 6/8 and punctuated by joyous gospel shouts. "Goodbye Pork Pie Hat" is a slow, graceful elegy for Lester Young, who died not long before the sessions. The sharply contrasting "Fables of Faubus" is a savage mockery of segregationist Arkansas governor Orval Faubus, portrayed musically as a bumbling vaudeville clown (the scathing lyrics, censored by skittish executives, can be heard on *Charles Mingus Presents Charles Mingus*). The underrated "Boogie Stop Shuffle" is bursting with aggressive swing, and elsewhere there are tributes to Mingus' most revered influences: "Open Letter to Duke" is inspired by Duke Ellington and "Jelly Roll" is an idiosyncratic yet affectionate nod to jazz's first great composer, Jelly Roll Morton. It simply isn't possible to single out one Mingus album as definitive, but *Mingus Ah Um* comes the closest.



Mingus Ah Um

Charles Mingus – Mingus Ah Um

- 1 Better Get Hit In Your Soul 7:23
- 2 Goodbye Pork Pie Hat 4:47
- 3 Boogie Stop Shuffle 3:42
- 4 Self-Portrait In Three Colours 3:06
- 5 Open Letter to Duke 4:57
- 6 Bird Calls 3:14
- 7 Fables Of Faubus 8:15
- 8 Pussy Cat Dues 6:30
- 9 Jelly Roll 4:02

Bass, Composed By – Charles Mingus • Alto Saxophone, Clarinet – John Handy
Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone – Shafi Hadi • Tenor Saxophone – Booker Ervin
Drums – Dannie Richmond • Piano – Horace Parlan
Recorded at 30th Street Studio by Columbia, NYC. May 1959

Please Note: The tracks on this release are based off of the edited versions that were on the original release

Charles Mingus – Mingus Ah Um



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