



Sonny Rollins, one of jazz's great tenors, is heard here at his peak with a pair of piano-less trios (either Wilbur Ware or Donald Bailey on bass and Elvin Jones or Pete La Roca on drums) stretching out on particularly creative versions of "Old Devil Moon," "Softly As in a Morning Sunrise," "Sonnymoon for Two," and "A Night in Tunisia," among others. Not only did Rollins have a very distinctive sound but his use of time, his sly wit, and his boppish but unpredictable style were completely his own by 1957.

Sonny Rollins is the most enduring tenor saxophonist of the bebop and hard bop eras, but also one of the greatest jazz saxophonists of all time. His fluid and harmonically innovative ideas and easily accessible sound have influenced generations of players. Nicknamed "Newk," he served early apprenticeships with bop masters from Bud Powell and Miles Davis to Max Roach & Clifford Brown. After 1956's classic Saxophone Colossus was released, he was heralded as

jazz's top tenorist. A year later, after Way Out West and A Night at the Village Vanguard (two pioneering piano-less trio dates), he entered a class of his own -- a reputation he never relinquished. Several of his own compositions, including "Oleo" and "Doxy," are jazz standards. Rollins retired twice early on: the first time, from 1959 through 1961 (when he practiced his horn on the Williamsburg Bridge), resulted in 1962's comeback album The Bridge. Between 1969 and 1971 he went on a spiritual sojourn to Jamaica and India. After returning, he had changed his style and, to a degree, his tone, as evidenced by 1978's Don't Stop the Carnival. As one of jazz's elder statesmen in the '90s and early 21st centuries, he proved an unbreakable connection between the music's historical lineage and modernity. He won Grammys for 2000's This Is What I Do and 2005's Without a Song: The 9/11 Concert, and a Lifetime Achievement Award. Rollins stopped performing in public in 2012 due to respiratory issues.

Sonny Rollins

A Night at the "Village Vanguard"

- 1 Old Devil Moon 8:19
- 2 Softly As In A Morning Sunrise 8:03
- 3 Striver's Row 5:59
- 4 Sonnymoon For Two 8:46
- 5 A Night In Tunisia 8:16
- 6 I Can't Get Started 4:54

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Recorded By - Rudy Van Gelder



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