

Jazz Thing (Video Mix)

Gang Starr

(feat. Branford Marsalis (instrumentally only)) "I would like to play a little tune I just composed not so long ago"

"Ms. Billie, Ms. Billie, Ms. Billie Holiday"

[HORNS]

[drum roll] [piano keys played]

[HORNS]

"Byrd.?" [trumpet solo] [group horns]

[Guru] "The music called jazz."

[HORNS][Guru]

It's roots are in the sounds of the African

Or should I say the mother. bringin us back again

From the drummin on the Congo, we came with a strong flow

And continue to grow

Feet move, to the beat of the t'balo

Now dig the story and follow

For then it landed, on American soil

Through the sweat, the blood, and the toil

Hear, "Praise the Lord," shouted on chain gangs

Pain they felt, but it helped them to maintain

Scott Joplin's rags, Bessie Smith's blues

St. Louis blues, they were all the news

Ringin smooth. in all the listeners ears

Fulfillin the needs, and plantin the seeds

Of a jazz thing King Oliver's group was a train comin through

To Chicago, bringin the New Orleans groove

And when Satchmo blew, the audience knew

Basil Street blues was the whole house tune

It was music. great to dance to

Great to romance to with a lot to say to you

Relaying a message, revealing the essence

Of a jazz thing [DJ Premier cuts "jazz music"] In the 40's came be-bop, the first be-bop

The real be-bop, so let me talk about

Diz' and Byrd, givin the word

Defining how a beat could be so complete

Playing with ferocity, thinkin with velocity

About ornathology, or anthropology

And even?, and this is real history

Theolonious Monk, a melodious thunk

No mistakes were made with the notes he played

His conception, was? re condite?

A star glowing bright among dim lights
 The critics did cite that he sounded alright
 Charlie Mingus, such nimble fingers
 Droppin the bass, all over the place
 And Max Roach, cymbals socking
 Bass drum talking, snare drum rocking
 Restructuring, the metaphysics
 Of a jazz thing John Coltrane, a man supreme
 He was the cream. he was the wise one
 The impression of Afro Blue
 And of the promise, that was not kept
 He was a GIANT step, and there was Ornette Coleman
 He was another soul man
 The original invisible, playing great music
 I wonder why the? Bangles? couldn't use it
 Now listen see
 The real mystery is how music history
 Created by white men or any other white man
 That pretended he originated "uh-huh."
 And contended that he innovated "uh-huh."
 A jazz thing
 ("Of course we know who can really blow")
 Scheamin on the meaning
 Of a jazz thing And this music ain't dead, so don't be misled
 By those who said that jazz was on it's deathbed
 Cause when Betty Carter sings a song
 Ain't nuttin goin on, but simply good music
 And you won't refuse it
 She's takin her time, makin the nuances rhyme
 Sonny Rollins, tenor saxophone
 With a big old tone, recitin poems
 With notes as words, and haven't you heard
 NEXT STOP BUTTER, RIGHT PAST OLEO
 Now there's young cats blowin
 And more and more people, yes they will be knowin
 Jazz ain't the past, this music's gonna last
 And as the facts unfold, remember who foretold
 The 90's, will be the decade of
 A jazz thing "I love jazz music" [x3][Primo scratches "I love jazz music"]A jazz thing...