

Gang Starr, Jazz Thing (Video Mix)

(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...