

# 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 &quot;uh-huh..&quot;  
and contended that he innovated &quot;uh-huh..&quot;  
a jazz thing  
(&quot;Of course we know who can really blow&quot;)  
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 &quot;I love jazz music&quot; [x3]

[Primo scratches &quot;I love jazz music&quot;]

A jazz thing...