

The Ultimate Jazz Archive Vol.120 – Barney Kessel [1952-1954] [2005]



01.Seven Come Eleven 02.Night And Day 03.Long Ago And Far Away 04.Somebody Loves Me 05.Strike Up The Band 06.'S Wonderful 07.I Got Rhythm 08.Love Walked In 09.Tenderly 10.Bernardo 11.Vicky's Dream 12.Just Squeeze Me 13.What Is There To Say 14.Salute To Charlie Christian 15.I Let A Song Go Out Of My Heart 16.Lullaby Of Birdland 17.Barney's Blues

One of the finest guitarists to emerge after the death of Charlie Christian, Barney Kessel was a reliable bop soloist throughout his career. He played with a big band fronted by Chico Marx (1943), was fortunate enough to appear in the classic jazz short Jammin' the Blues (1944), and then worked with the big bands of Charlie Barnet (1944-1945) and Artie Shaw (1945); he also recorded with Shaw's Gramercy Five. Kessel became a busy studio musician in Los Angeles, but was always in demand for jazz records. He toured with the Oscar Peterson Trio for one year (1952-1953) and then, starting in 1953, led an impressive series of records for Contemporary that lasted until 1961 (including several with Ray Brown and Shelly Manne in a trio accurately called the Poll Winners). After touring Europe with George Wein's Newport All-Stars (1968), Kessel lived in London for a time (1969-1970). In 1973, he began touring and recording with the Great Guitars, a group also including Herb Ellis and Charlie Byrd. A serious stroke in 1992 put Barney Kessel permanently out of action, but many of his records (which include dates for Onyx, Black Lion, Sonet, and Concord, in addition to many of the Contemporaries) are available, along with several video collections put out by Vestapol. Kessel was diagnosed with inoperable cancer in 2001, which eventually took his life in May of 2004. He was 80 years old. ---Scott Yanow, Rovi

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