A legendary figure in jazz, and deservedly so: one of the first beboppers, he was that genre's...

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foremost improviser, spinning out lovely, often bizarre melodic runs. His compositions, like most early bop, were usually based on either blues or "I Got Rhythm" changes, but many have melody lines so impressive they're still recorded today. I have no idea how to review Parker's output.

This is a Verve release, and it's actually well-organized: the tracks are two complete quartet dates, from 1952 and 1953. None of the material is available on Very Best Of Bird, and most of it's excellent: "Confirmation" and the title track are the best known. The quartet format leaves Parker maximum space to improvise, and some of the tunes don't even have themes: he just blows from start to finish. Verve could have given you a lot more for your money, though: the disc runs less than forty minutes, and about half of that is outtakes. --- warr.org

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