

Chet Baker – Chet Baker In Paris (1956)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Alone Together*
02. *Tenderly*
03. *Summertime*
04. *There's a Small Hotel*
05. *I'll Remember April*
06. *Not Too Slow*
07. *Chet*
08. *Just Duo*
09. *Sad Walk*
10. *In a Little Provincial Town*
11. *Exitus*
12. *Tasty Pudding*
13. *These Foolish Things (Remind Me of You)*
14. *Everything Happens to Me*

Chet Baker - Trumpet, Vocals Jean Aldegon - Sax (Alto) Francys Boland - Arranger, Piano
Jimmy Bond - Bass William Boucaya - Sax (Baritone) Jean Louis Chautemps - Sax (Tenor)
Bert Dahlander - Drums Raymond Fol - Piano Gérard Gustin - Piano Peter Littman - Drums
Armand Migiani - Sax (Tenor) Benoit Quersin - Bass Richard Twardzik - Piano Benny Vasseur
- Trombone

In the summer of 1955, Chet Baker decided to go on a concert tour of Europe for a few weeks. He ended up staying there for more than six months, and his work and experiences during that time, which was mostly spent in Paris, should be crucial for his career and his life.

There is no doubt that his musical development experienced a major push forward. A comparison of the Pacific Jazz recordings made before and after the Paris interlude shows a much matured, more proficient trumpet player. On the personal side, his deepening heroin

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addiction and the death of his friend and pianist Dick Twardzik only a few weeks after their arrival in Paris also left an imprint on his playing, which lost its carefree tone. His playing was still light, but from this point onward, it started to deepen emotionally, bringing in shades of both beauty and darkness. It is also the time during which, no doubt through the exposure to the Paris jazz scene, Baker is increasingly influenced by hard bop, which ends his "cool jazz" phase and works much to his advantage.

All of them show Baker maturing, and all of them show him alert and attentive. These recordings stand well in their own right, and they would provide the foundation for his excellent collaborations with Art Pepper and Russ Freeman after his return to the USA in 1956. ---hprill, rateyourmusic.com

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