**Chet Baker**

**Chesney Henry** "**Chet**" **Baker Jr.** (December 23, 1929 – May 13, 1988) was an American [jazz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jazz) trumpeter, [flugelhornist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flugelhorn" \o "Flugelhorn), and vocalist.

Baker earned much attention and critical praise through the 1950s, particularly for albums featuring his vocals ([*Chet Baker Sings*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chet_Baker_Sings), [*It Could Happen to You*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/(Chet_Baker_Sings)_It_Could_Happen_to_You)). Jazz historian [Dave Gelly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dave_Gelly) described the promise of Baker's early career as "[James Dean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Dean), [Sinatra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Sinatra), and [Bix](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bix_Beiderbecke), rolled into one." His well-publicized drug habit also drove his notoriety and fame; Baker was in and out of jail frequently before enjoying a career resurgence in the late 1970s and '80s.