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| Gillespie, Dizzy (1917-1993) |
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| Dizzy Gillespie was an American jazz trumpeter, composer, and bandleader. Over the course of his artistic career Gillespie was based in New York City; there he was first active performing in big bands, eventually leading bands of his own. Along with his musical colleague, alto saxophonist Charlie Parker, Gillespie was one of the progenitors of the modern jazz movement bebop in the 1940s. Gillespie often performed this music the Harlem jazz nightclub known as Minton’s Playhouse; frequently evenings at Minton’s would include after hour jam sessions with Parker and pianist Thelonious Monk. Considered one of the pioneers of Latin jazz, especially Afro-Cuban jazz, Gillespie traveled extensively performing this music with an international roster of musicians. Compositions that reflect this style of jazz include ‘Tin Tin Deo,’ and ‘Manteca’ (1947). His musical orientation to Afro rhythms was evident as early as 1942, when he composed the jazz standard ‘A Night in Tunisia.’ Gillespie gave modern jazz tenor saxophonist John Coltrane his start in improvisational focused small band work in 1949, when he dissembled his big band and formed a sextet. |
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