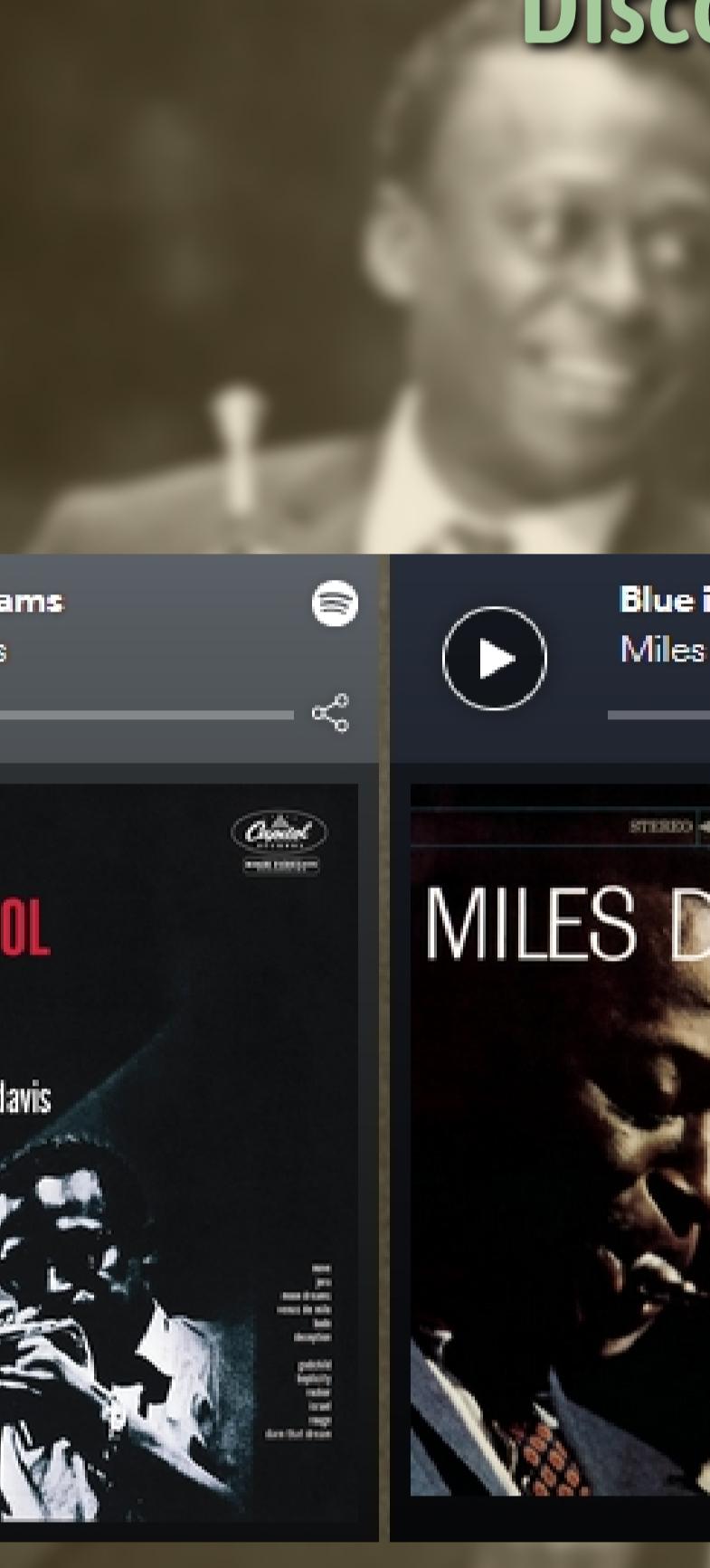


SCROLL DOWN TO LEARN ABOUT THE INNOVATOR OF JAZZ FUSION, MILES DAVIS!

His Life



1926 – 1944
EARLY LIFE

Miles Dewey Davis III was born May 26, 1926 in Alton, Illinois. After being introduced to the trumpet at 13, Miles Davis studied under Elwood Buchanan, a friend of his father that directed a music school. During this period, Davis was taught to play without vibrato and began to experiment with harmonies and rhythms of his improvisation. He later left Illinois to attend Juilliard, a famed music school in New York City, in 1944. While in New York, Davis joined Charlie Parker and his band to play at Harlem Nightclubs. Here, Davis met with many other musicians and together they developed "bebop," a quick-paced, improvised style of jazz.

(ca. 1955-1956)
Tom Palumbo



Discography



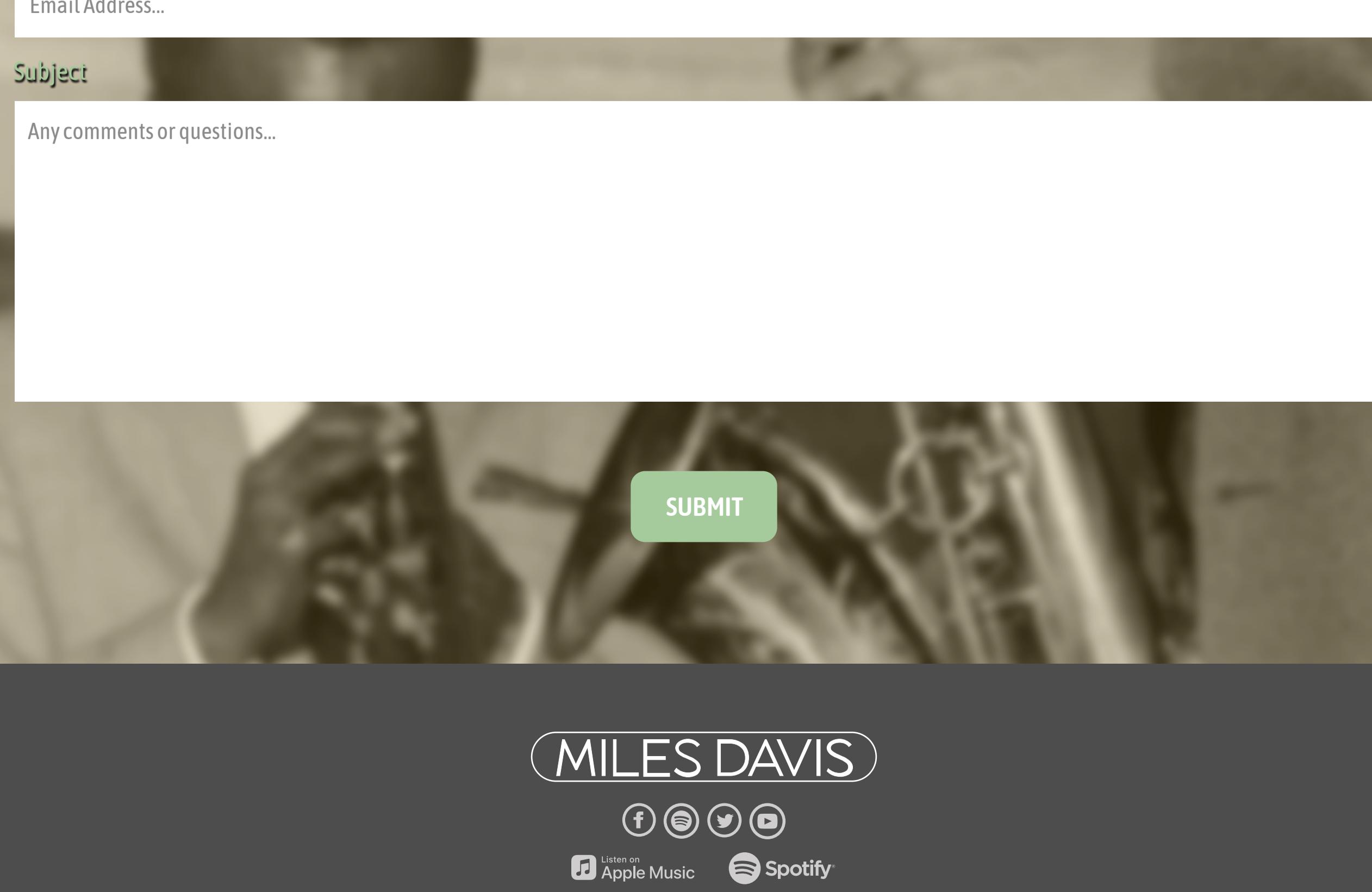
Gallery



Career History

Throughout his career, Davis released many albums including "Round About Midnight" (1956), "Workin'" (1956), "Steamin'" (1956), "Relaxin'" (1956), and "Milestones" (1958). "Kind of Blue" (1959), perhaps the most celebrated album in the history of jazz. In a Silent Way (1969) was regarded as the seminal album of the jazz fusion movement. It was considered by purists to be Davis's last true jazz album. "Bitches Brew" (1969), was an album on which he fully embraced the rhythms, electronic instrumentation, and studio effects of rock music. His recordings from 1979 to 1981 culminated in the release of "The Man with the Horn". He interpreted songs made popular by Michael Jackson ("Human Nature") and Cyndi Lauper ("Time After Time") on his album "You're Under Arrest", released in 1985.

Miles marked a return to his blues roots ("Star People", 1982) and a set of Gil Evans-influenced orchestral numbers ("Music from Siesta", 1987). Davis won several Grammy Awards during this period for such albums as "We Want Miles" (1982), "Tutu" (1986), and "Aura" (1989). His final album, "Doo-Bop" (1992), was released posthumously. Winner of eight Grammy awards and in 1990, received a Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award. In 1954, around the same time that his performance of "Round Midnight" at the Newport Jazz Festival, Miles earned a recording contract with Columbia Records. His music was so influential that he was featured on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine—becoming the first jazz artist to be so recognized.

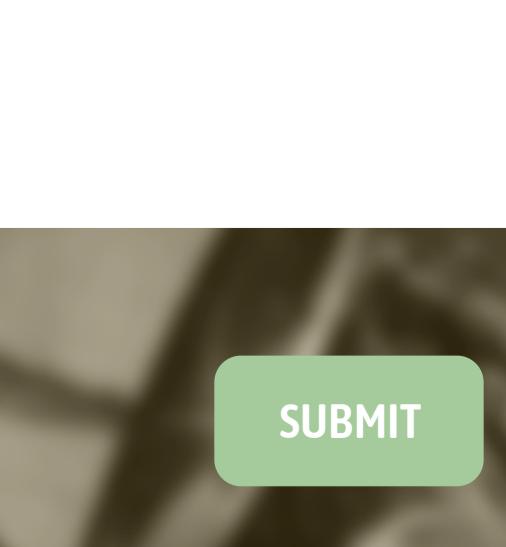


Impact



Brian Chase

"I took private drum lessons when I was young and my teacher introduced me to the jazz tradition and Miles. I transcribed all of Miles' solos and he had been transcribing Tony Williams's part on Miles' 'So What'. So my relationship with Miles is a very technical one, as a student of the jazz tradition."



Mos Def

"The first Miles song I thought of was 'Little Church'. It's not an original, which is one of the things that makes it special — it's his interpretation of someone else's material. Everything that Miles did bears his mark, but 'Little Church' is simple but lyrical, it's majestic but small."



John Legend

"I listened to Kind Of Blue all the time when I was in college, especially when I was studying. It's just so well put together — the music, the melodies, and the arrangements are all very subtle. It's all in my head, and any album I listened to that much has to make some impact on my own music."