

REMEMBERING DAVE: A BRUBECK FAMILY ALBUM

A pianist, bandleader, and composer, Dave Brubeck (1920-2012) is widely acknowledged as one of America's most significant post-Swing Era jazz musicians. He added new dimensions to jazz composition and created a body of music that was bold and accessible. Growing new audiences with a sophisticated, swinging style, he further extended jazz's domain by bringing the music to college campuses nationwide. His appearance on the cover of Time magazine in 1954 asserted his status as an American superstar and four years later, a far-ranging US State Department tour of his eponymous quartet to countries in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Southern Asia, gave Brubeck the opportunity to serve as a cultural ambassador. On this and many other subsequent government-sponsored trips, Brubeck and his collaborators presented jazz as an intentional and accurate reflection of the highest American ideals and cultural aspirations. In 1959, the Dave Brubeck Quartet's complex and iconic *Time Out* was a blockbuster hit, unusual for serious jazz, then and now. Recognized as a key proponent of a sub-genre named "Cool" (also identified as "West Coast"), Brubeck was an original in a variety of forms, composing oratorios and cantatas, as well as compositions for ballet, musical theater, and symphonic orchestras. A socially engaged artist, Brubeck consistently fought for racial integration and equality both at home and abroad during times when it was not the popular thing to do.

For all the time Dave Brubeck spent on the road, Wilton Connecticut was home for nearly 50 years. Based on *Dave Brubeck: Jazz Ambassador* presented by Jazz at Lincoln Center shortly after his death, this exhibition adds personal materials from the Brubeck family which extend our understanding and appreciation of this remarkable man.

Thank you to the Brubeck Family, particularly Tish Brubeck, for their gracious assistance in presenting this exhibition, which would not have been possible without them.

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