



# Missouri Music Hall of Fame Elected 2011

Charles Parker, Jr.  
(1920-1955)

As a master of the alto and tenor saxophone, Charles (Charlie) "Bird" Parker is one of the architects of the American Jazz movement. Kansas City raised and trained, Parker's professional stage took flight with the Jay McShann Orchestra, eventually recording landmark solos "Hootie Blues," "Sepian Bounce", and "Confessing the Blues". Marked by an iconic emotional style, "Yardbird" (eventually "Bird") Parker excelled in the New York Jazz circuits by laying his own interpretation over the notes of common melodies, rightfully taking place among "be-bop" jazz legends Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, and Thelonious Monk. Parker's legacy is nothing less than that of an architect of the sound of American music as we know it. The Missouri Music Hall of Fame honors his career and dedication to the art of music, education, and performance with his induction to the 2012 class on the evening of August 31st at Phil Welch Stadium in St. Joseph, Missouri.