

Listening Guide

Gillespie/Parker: *A Night in Tunisia*

DATE: Recorded 1946

PERFORMERS: Charlie Parker Septet
Charlie Parker, alto saxophone
Miles Davis, trumpet
Lucky Thompson, tenor saxophone
Dodo Mamarosa, piano
Arv Garrison, guitar
Vic McMillan, bass
Roy Porter, drums

FORM: 32-bar song form (**A-A-B-A**), in 3 choruses

TEMPO: Moderate 4/4

KEY: D minor

WHAT TO LISTEN FOR: Short motivic ideas (riffs) that are repeated; underlying bass ostinato. Soloistic style (often featuring a single player). Statement of tune, played by muted trumpet (Miles Davis) and alto saxophone (Charlie Parker). Frenetic improvisational style of Charlie Parker in chorus 2. Choruses 2 and 3: solo improvisations on trumpet, tenor saxophone, and guitar, with short melodic ideas alternating between lyrical lines. Recap of tune, and final ostinato.

Introduction—8-bar ostinato (bass and percussion);
4 bar saxophone ostinato.

Opening disjunct line of tune (**A**), with a short idea (9 notes) that is repeated (played first by muted trumpet):



Chorus 1—(A-A-B-A)

A—Trumpet, accompanied by ostinato (8 bars).

A—Trumpet melody repeated, with ostinato.

B—New saxophone melody (8 bars).

A—Return of trumpet, with ostinato (8 bars).

Sax section—interlude (12 bars).

Chorus 2

Famous alto sax break (introduction to chorus 2).

Alto sax solo (16 bars).

Muted trumpet solo (16 bars).

Chorus 3 (A-A-B-A)

Tenor saxophone solo (16 bars).

Guitar solo (8 bars).

Trumpet solo with ostinato accompaniment (8 bars).

Coda

Bass ostinato (8 bars), same as introduction; fades out.