Charlie Parker’s Yardbird
by Daniel Schnyder, 1961–
& Bridgette A. Wimberly

CD & DVD

CD  Parker, Charlie
   Features recordings of Charlie Parker with various ensembles from 1947–1954. The liner
   notes are written by Phil Schaap, curator of Jazz at Lincoln Center.
   COMPACT DISC Jz Par 34859
**CD & DVD**

**CD**

Parker, Charlie  
Features recordings of Charlie Parker with various ensembles from 1945–1948. The song, *Now's the Time*, is used as a theme in Schnyder and Wimberly’s opera, and features Bird’s good friend, Dizzy Gillespie, on trumpet.

CD & DVD

**DVD**

Based upon the biography by Gary Giddins, this documentary presents the life of Charlie Parker through film clips, photos, and interviews. A stunning highlight: Charlie Parker’s only surviving television appearance playing *Hot House*.

**Libretto**

The libretto, written by Bridgette A. Wimberly, has not been commercially published.

**For further reading**

This biography by the late jazz writer and critic, Stanley Crouch, explores the early life and career of Charlie Parker. Crouch writes about Parker’s Depression-era childhood in Kansas City and his performances in his hometown (the late-night “freak shows” and “spook breakfasts”), the segregated union halls of Chicago and the ballrooms of New York’s Harlem. The biography also reveals Parker’s introduction to drugs, the relationship with his protective mother and the romance with his high school sweetheart and first wife, Rebecca Ruffin. A fascinating read.

Giddins’ revised edition of his 1987 biography attempts to overturn the myths about Charlie Parker and reveal a portrait of a true jazz genius. Drawing upon original sources, including several photographs that have never been published before, Giddins writes with true passion about a remarkable musician.

https://danielschnyder.com/  
The official website for composer and saxophonist Daniel Schnyder provides biographical information, a works list, a list of recordings (including Bandcamp tracks) and information about projects and events.
For further reading


This podcast from Seattle Opera features a conversation among *Yardbird*’s composer, Daniel Schnyder, librettist Bridgette A. Wimberly, Seattle Opera’s Jonathan Dean, and Abe Beeson of radio station KNKX. Seattle Opera’s production of *Charlie Parker’s Yardbird* premiered in its 2020 season.

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Operabase
https://www.operabase.com/en
This website allows you to search opera performance details of artists and international opera companies, including upcoming schedules. Operabase has documented operatic activity worldwide since 1996, with more than 500,000 performances on file. It records the work of artists in more than 900 theaters, and publishes season information to opera-goers in 23 languages.

OperaGlass
opera.stanford.edu/
A great resource for plot synopses of operas, libretti, discographies, and performance histories. Links to other opera websites are also listed.

YouTube
youtube.com
Though YouTube is not a specific site for opera research, it really does have everything and anything as far as video and sound clips. If you use the title of any opera in a search, you will find several archived performances from stage productions, concerts, and more.

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