

Tonight we're paying tribute to one of the most important institutions in the history of modern jazz: Blue Note Records.

Blue Note was founded in 1939 by two German Jewish immigrants, Alfred Lion and Francis Wolff, who had fled Nazi Germany and landed in New York with a deep love for Black American music. Their idea was simple but revolutionary: create a label where jazz musicians could record the music they actually wanted to play... And they meant it.

At Blue Note, artists were paid fairly, given rehearsal time before recording, and encouraged to bring their most forward-thinking ideas into the studio. The result was a staggering run of recordings through the 1950s and 60s that helped define modern jazz.

This is the label that documented the sound of Thelonious Monk, Art Blakey, Horace Silver, Lee Morgan, Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, Freddie Hubbard, Grant Green, and many others.

It also gave us one of the most iconic visual identities in music history — those Francis Wolff photographs and Reid Miles album covers that made every Blue Note record look as cool as it sounded.

But the real magic of Blue Note was that it was always about innovation.

These musicians weren't preserving jazz — they were pushing it forward.

So tonight, that's exactly what we're going to do.

Instead of recreating these masterpieces exactly as they were recorded in the 1950s and 60s, we're going to run them through the sonic lens of electric-jazz — imagining how these tunes might sound if they were being written today... with modern grooves, modern textures, and the influence of everything that's happened in Black American music since then.

Think of it as Blue Note, but filtered through the lineage of Miles Davis' electric bands, funk, hip-hop, and the rhythmic vocabulary of the present day.

The compositions remain the same — the spirit remains the same — but the sonic palette gets pushed into the 21st century.

So thank you for being here.

Let's take a journey through the Blue Note catalogue... reimagined

Welcome to the ELECTRIC BLUE NOTE.