



## Eddie Harris

(October 20, 1934 – November 5, 1996)

<http://www.answers.com/topic/eddie-harris>

If Charlie Parker was a great influence to Eddie Harris, Then I understand why Eddie Harris was such a great influence on me. Eddie taught me to develop your own style taking notes from the greats from before. While Charlie played alto sax, Eddie mastered the tenor. His styles said to me take it easy, no one is going anywhere. Eddie was the first to electrify the sax and first to have a certified gold album in Jazz. Eddie took swing and mixed in a little soul and some funk. His electric method was incorporated in one of his many albums (The Electrifying Eddie Harris). Even though he had many great cuts in his day, my most favor was a cut called [Listen Here](#). He devoted much of the album to it with another cut called Freedom Jazz Dance and Live Right Now.



LES McCANN      EDDIE HARRIS  
*Foto*

Eddie had his following who respect him to this day. Eddie had a way with the tenor that many followed. In the clubs many called the tenor sax the sexy instrument. If you played good and the music was right, you could play the draws right off a woman without saying a word. I guess that is why many took up the sax, heh?

Whenever I got the chance, I went to see Eddie. I remember one time I was in Monterey,



CA and they were have the Monterey Jazz Festival. I could not get in, but from my back yard I could here Eddie and it sounded so good, he might as well have been right there beside me. He and his buddy [Les McCann](#) at the [Montreux Jazz Festival](#). sounded just as great at the [North Sea Jazz Festival](#) in Den Haag, Netherlands.

I believe Eddie was the hardest working Tenor Sax Master in the business, but the affects of critics and other worked on him. I call Eddie a realist because through it all, he adjusted and kept playing. When I heard about Eddie passing I wept because I knew the days of Jazz experimentation was coming to an end. Now days Jazz is smooth, safe, with regular rhythms and tones. Few today go all out with unique sounds and rhythm changes. Check out [George Duke's](#) comments on that same subject.



Like with the others, Eddie will be sorely missed. It's a good thing we have their treasures of records to remember them by. No matter the critics, Eddie's accomplishments has become a great part of history and we should never forget them.

*Bill Sommerville*