

Miles & Trane: A Centennial Celebration

The year 2026 marks the centennial of two towering figures in American music: Miles Davis and John Coltrane. Individually, they transformed the course of jazz. Together, they created one of the most influential partnerships in modern music, redefining improvisation, composition, and artistic expression for generations to come.

Chuck Stewart was uniquely positioned to document this extraordinary period. Through his lens, he photographed Miles Davis across more than three decades, from the late 1950s through the final years of Davis's career. These photographs reveal not only the evolution of Miles's music, but also the continual reinvention of his visual identity, from the tailored elegance of the 1950s to the bold artistic expression that defined his later years.

John Coltrane occupies an equally profound place within Stewart's archive. Among the photographs presented here is Stewart's celebrated documentation of the *A Love Supreme* recording session, one of the most important recordings in the history of jazz. Other photographs capture Coltrane performing with the Miles Davis Sextet, preserving a pivotal moment when four extraordinary musicians, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Cannonball Adderley, and Paul Chambers, stood together during one of the most influential periods in modern jazz.

The inclusion of John and Alice Coltrane reflects another chapter in this remarkable story. Together, they expanded the spiritual and artistic possibilities of jazz, leaving an enduring legacy that continues to resonate with musicians and audiences around the world.

More than portraits of celebrated musicians, these photographs document artistic transformation. They reveal friendships, collaborations, recording sessions, performances, and moments of quiet concentration that shaped the evolution of American music. Stewart's ability to earn the trust of the artists he photographed allowed him to move beyond publicity images, creating photographs that remain deeply personal as well as historically significant.

As you view these photographs, consider not only the individual achievements of Miles Davis and John Coltrane, but also the extraordinary influence they shared. Their music challenged conventions, expanded artistic boundaries, and forever changed the sound of jazz. Chuck Stewart's photographs preserve those moments with remarkable intimacy, allowing us to witness not only two legendary musicians, but the creative spirit that defined an era.

This centennial presentation honors three enduring legacies: the visionary music of Miles Davis, the spiritual genius of John Coltrane, and the photographer whose lens preserved their journey for future generations.