Beginning with Adderley’s college training in music education, this article follows the saxophonist from his humble days as a band teacher in Florida through his work with figures like Miles Davis and John Coltrane. Adderley’s lifelong compulsion to teach guided his career in a variety of important ways. Both his later work leading groups of his own and his tireless efforts to promote fledgling artists including Wes Montgomery, Nancy Wilson, and Chuck Mangione stand as a testament to the educational values Adderley upheld. His career offers a moving counterexample to the cliché, “Those who can, do; those who can’t, teach.”