Miles Davis has been quoted as saying, “You can tell the history of jazz in four words: Louis Armstrong, Charlie Parker.” Bebop developed during WWII, and was a style of jazz that was faster, had more improvisation, messed a lot with harmonies and keys, and required virtuoso playing. Charlie Parker, who was also known as “Bird” was the key person in this new direction for jazz.

How did he get to be so good? Parker once said that for three or four years he had practised up to fifteen hours a day. How much do you practise? As a personal challenge, see how long it takes you to learn the Charlie Parker transcription in this arrangement.

Suggested Listening

*Now’s The Time*  
Charlie Parker: *Jumpin’ at the Roost*  
Eddie Jefferson: *Body & Soul*  
Lambert, Hendricks & Ross: *1FM – Adore Jazz*