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SHOWBIZ

Preservationists honor Miles Davis at his former home on W. 77th St.

Jazz legend wasn't always loved on the block. Music kept up the neighbors.

BY [AMBER GOODFELLOW](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

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PETER CARRETTE ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES

Jazz legend Miles Davis performed the world over, but lived on W. 77th St. The site will soon be marked with a cultural medallion.

When [Miles Davis](#) lived on the upper West Side, he was hated by his neighbors. But the city has finally embraced the late jazz legend.

Davis irritated his W. 77th St. neighbors by inviting other local jazz artists to jam on his stoop, said Shirley Zafirau, who still lives on the block.

“All of these really important musicians would come here and rehearse — and some of the stuff that got shouted by the neighbors was really ugly,” Zafirau said at last week’s ceremony to put a commemorative plaque on the residence at 312 W. 77th St., where Davis lived from 1958 to 1983.

It didn’t take too long before neighbors realized they had a friendly genius in their midst.



DAVID HANDSCHUH/NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Jazz musicians Wallace Rooney, left, and Gary Bartz were on hand for a ceremony last week.

"He would sit outside and we would walk by and he would say 'Hey, how's it going?' And we would sit and talk," Zafirau remembered.

The complaints stopped. And finally, 21 years after Davis' death, the Historic Landmarks Preservation Center will honor the jazz legend with the medallion.

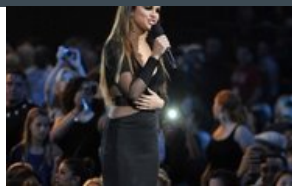
Jazz artists said the long overdue recognition would extend Davis' legacy beyond music.

"I wouldn't call him just a musician," Gary Bartz, Grammy award-winning saxophonist, said. "He was an artist. We will always love Miles Davis."

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