



Young Coleman Hawkins parents gave him a C-melody saxophone for his ninth birthday. C-melody saxophones were popular instruments for the home in the early 1900s and thousands of them were made. They could be played with a piano in the key of C. Today, E, and B, saxophones are played in bands, jazz groups and orchestras. C-melody saxophones in size are between an alto and tenor saxophone.

COLEMAN HAWKINS

"Father of the Tenor Saxophone"



COLEMAN HAWKINS
1899-1980

Coleman Hawkins was known as the "Father of the Tenor Saxophone." He was born on November 21, 1899, in St. Joseph, Missouri. After an illustrious career, he died on May 11, 1980, in New York City.

Coleman Hawkins recalled, "My first saxophone got ruined when I was just a little kid. There was one that was a good one, that was about the second model I can remember." His first tenor sax got ruined, owned by St. Joseph where he lived at night long.