

Lullaby of Birdland



After Ella Fitzgerald sang “Lullaby of Birdland” in 1954, she was noticeably mum on the inspiration behind the recording. Whenever a music critic asked her about it, she’d couch her answer in a bluesy scat, usually in B minor, but sometimes in the fecal droppings of a wild animal. Jump ahead sixty-four years: Christie’s Auction House in New York offers for sale an assortment of Ella’s kitchen appliances that includes her fabled Amana refrigerator. The sale brochure shows an ice box in mint condition. It *also* shows an assortment of memorabilia taped to the right (that is, north) side of the unit, including a photograph of B.B. Dinklaker, the top Amana salesperson of 1954 for the Great Lakes region. Can there be any doubt now as to who inspired the Birdland lullaby!?