

DVD Reviews

ART BLAKEY

LIVE IN '65

The Hub; Blue Moon; Crisis; N.Y. Theme (60.00)

Freddie Hubbard (f); Nathan Davis (ts); Jaki Byard (p); Reggie Workman (b); Blakey (d). France, 1965, b/w.

Naxos 2119017



This is the first alphabetically of seven new CDs in the Jazz Icons series which are available separately. If you buy them all in a boxed set you'll also have the free bonus DVD reviewed below. Blakey is the first artist to be leader on two of the Jazz Icons releases and the reason is clear enough: the earlier DVD featured Lee Morgan and Benny Golson while this one has the very different front-line of Hubbard and Davis. This personnel only existed for a European tour though Hubbard of course had worked with Blakey before.

The trumpeter's strikingly unpredictable solos, at times distantly related to Red Allen's, are the main attraction though Blakey plays a phenomenal solo on *Crisis*, the flashing sticks superimposed very effectively over his smiling face. This track, with solos all round, lasts for 24 minutes and *Blue Moon* (a feature for Hubbard) and *The Hub* are also lengthy, with the *Theme* a very brief closer. Davis is the least known of these men, his heavy tonguing suggesting a Rollins influence, but he's very capable and Jaki Byard's solos are a delight, so this is a valuable souvenir of a short-lived band that's billed on the credits not as the Messengers but as Blakey's New Jazzmen.

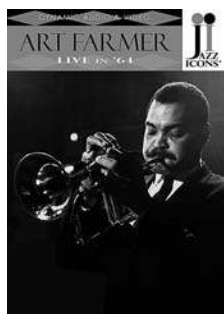
ART FARMER

LIVE IN '64

Sometime Ago; Bilbao Song; Darn That Dream; Valse Hot; So In Love; I'm Getting Sentimental Over You; Petite Belle; Bags' Groove (60.00)

Farmer (f); Jim Hall (g); Steve Swallow (b); Pete La Roca (d); London, 1964, b/w.

Naxos 2118919



The very good news related to this is that Jazz Icons now have licensed access to the BBC's Jazz 625 programmes which at one time were thought to have been irretrievably wiped from the tapes. Two 30-minute broadcasts are here with the same studio set-up and audience but different lighting. Both have excellent visual quality but the first (which ends with *Valse Hot*) has sound that's slightly fuzzy around the edges. Luckily sound quality is better on the second.

Farmer stands very still while playing but his face, often seen in close-up, expressively mirrors the music he's producing. He's in confident form and there's some brilliant drumming from Pete La Roca who's featured on both *Valse Hot* and *So In Love*. Steve Swallow watches rather glumly when the drummer's the centre of attention but has a few articulate outings of his own, while Jim Hall looks like a physics teacher but solos and accompanies like the masterful musician he is. This was a very well integrated quartet and they were filmed with a sensitivity that matches the music.

ERROLL GARNER

LIVE IN '63 & '64

(1) *Erroll's Theme; I Get A Kick Out Of You; Fly Me To The Moon; Sweet And Lovely; It Might As Well Be Spring; Misty; Where Or When; Thanks For The Memory*; (2) *Erroll's Theme; When Your Lover Has Gone; Fly Me To The Moon; Mambo Erroll; My Funny Valentine; One-Note Samba; Where Or When; Thanks For The Memory; Erroll's Theme* (60.00)

Garner (p); Eddie Calhoun (b); Kelly Martin (d). (1) Belgium, 1963, b/w. (2) Sweden, 1964, b/w.

Naxos 2119021

Never having seen Garner in person or on film I was full of eager anticipation and he doesn't disappoint. Beaming seraphically around he rarely looks at the keyboard where his hands seem to have a life of their own. In Belgium we see plenty of his hands and fascinating they are, his left playing a steady series of chords while his right flows freely across and around the beat. Similarities of repertoire might sug-

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gest too much of a routine but he's clearly aware of his audience and rather desultory Swedish applause after *Fly Me* causes him to launch into his stimulating and hypnotic *Erroll's Mambo* to regain their attention. His accompanists look as if he rescued them from an old people's home but they carry out their straightforward roles well enough and who needs bass or drums solos when Erroll Garner's at the piano?

COLEMAN HAWKINS

LIVE IN '62 & '64

(1) *Disorder At The Border; Autumn Leaves; Lover Come Back To Me; Moonlight In Vermont; All The Things You Are; Owl!* (2) *Disorder At The Border; Lover Man / Stella By Starlight / Girl From Ipanema; What Is This Thing Called Love; Stoned; September Song / What's New / Willow Weep For Me; Centerpiece; Caravan* (140.00)

Hawkins (ts) with: (1) Georges Arvanitas (p) Jimmy Woode (b); Kansas Fields (d). Belgium, 1962, b/w. (2) Harry Edison (f); Sir Charles Thompson (p); Woode (b); Jo Jones (d). London, 2 October 1964, b/w.

Naxos 2119020



There's a great deal to be said about this DVD and not just because it lasts more than twice as long as most of the others released alongside it. The 1962 concert, lasting a full hour, is a new discovery and was obviously recorded close in

time to the studio film which features the same group with Mickey Baker's guitar added (and is currently available on Oh!44646). The sound is good and Hawkins is in forceful form. The two slower tracks are better than the others because they don't have the slightly manic drumming Fields contributes when the tempo rises but Hawkins sails on imperturbably and Arvanitas and Woode are immaculate throughout. The notes don't mention it but