

Charles Tolliver Orchestra - Recreation Of Thelonious Monk's 1959 Town Hall Concert

Written by bluesever

Tuesday, 07 December 2010 10:12 - Last Updated Thursday, 14 August 2014 13:52

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*1 Announcement Speaker 4:13 2 In Walked Bud (StC,p-solo) / Announcement Speaker 4:50
3 Blue Monk (StC,p-trio) / Announcement Speaker 4:54 4 Rhythm-A-Ning (MSt,ts-StC,p-trio) /
Announcement Speaker 6:06 5 Thelonious / Announcement Speaker 2:58 6 Friday The 13th /
Announcement Speaker 8:48 7 Monk's Mood / Announcement Speaker 10:55 8 Little Rootie
Tootie / Announcement Speaker 12:35 9 Off Minor / Announcement Speaker 5:49 10
Crepusule With Nellie / Announcement Speaker 6:58 11 Little Rootie Tootie / Announcement
Speaker 5:24 Charles Tolliver,tp,arr Kenyatta Beasley,tp Jason Jackson,tb Vincent
Chancey,frh Aaron Johnson,tu Todd Bashore,as Marcus Strickland,ts Howard Johnson,bs
Stanley Cowell,p Rufus Reid,b Gene Jackson,dr 2009-February-26 NYC, USA, TownHall
(WNYC-FM)*

This fiftieth anniversary celebration of Thelonious Monk's historic Town Hall concert grew out of a six-week, 18-event series in 2007, "Following Monk," based at Duke University, just 60 miles from Monk's hometown, honoring what would have been Monk's ninetieth birthday (October 10, 2007). The focus was on the Carolina roots of the man and his music, with such musicians as Hank Jones, Charlie Haden, Randy Weston, Barry Harris, Jessica Williams, Henry Butler, and the Kronos Quartet, along with Charles Tolliver and Jason Moran. The Town Hall celebration also grew out of the ongoing Jazz Loft Project at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University.

One night in late February 1959, Thelonious Monk took a tentet to Town Hall in New York City for a historic concert. No one had heard Monk's music played by a big band before. The anticipation was great. For several weeks leading up to that event Monk and his collaborator Hall Overton, and then the entire band, toiled away arranging and rehearsing the music in a dilapidated loft building at 821 Sixth Avenue (between 28th and 29th Streets).

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Fifty years later, two generations of jazz stars pay homage to Monk at Town Hall. Charles Tolliver and Jason Moran salute the legendary musician by presenting two distinct, evening-length takes on that original concert. Tolliver and his tentet play newly minted note-for-note arrangements of the 1959 show, while Moran and his octet present a newly commissioned mixed-media concert that incorporates never-before-heard recordings and images captured during the rehearsals and arranging sessions by legendary photographer W. Eugene Smith, who lived and worked in the "jazz loft" building. --- cdsporch.org

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