Bill Evans & Randy Brecker – Soul Bop Band Live (2005)



Cd 1: 01. Rattletrap 02. Big fun 03. Above & below 04. Let's pretend 05. Some shunk funk 06. Greed Cd 2: 01. Soul bop 02. Tease me 03. Cool eddie 04. Mixed grill 05. Hangin' in the city 06. Dixie hop Bill Evans (saxophone) Randy Brecker (trumpet) David Kikoski (keyboards) Hiram Bullock (guitar) Victor Bailey (bass) Steve Smith (drums)

During the summers of 2004 and 2005, saxophonist Bill Evans and trumpeter Randy Brecker co-led the Soul Bop Band on tours. The music that they created was funky, heartfelt, and full of strong jazz solos. With a top-notch and versatile rhythm section comprised of guitarist Hiram Bullock, keyboardist David Kikoski, bassist Victor Bailey, and drummer Steve Smith, the sextet performed consistently stirring music. This two-CD set has plenty of heated instrumentals along with occasional ballads, all of it original music coming from either Evans, Brecker, or Bullock. Unfortunately a few of the selections have vocals from Brecker that are primitive at best and an acquired taste although the words to Bullock's "Greed" are worthy. If it were not for the singing, this two-fer would be rated higher, but it does contain some of the best playing of the era from Bill Evans and Randy Brecker, who consistently bring out the best in each other. ---Scott Yanow, Rovi

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