

Count Basie – Basie & Zoot (1975)

Written by bluesever

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1. "I Never Knew" (Ted Fio Rito, Gus Kahn) – 4:38 2. "It's Only a Paper Moon" (Harold Arlen, Yip Harburg, Billy Rose) – 5:33 3. "Blues for Nat Cole" (Count Basie, Zoot Sims) – 6:32 4. "Captain Bligh" (Basie, Sims) – 6:36 5. "Honeysuckle Rose" (Andy Razaf, Fats Waller) – 6:23 6. "Hardav" (Basie, Sims) – 4:41 7. "Mean to Me" (Fred E. Ahlert, Roy Turk) – 6:30 8. "I Surrender, Dear" (Harry Barris, Gordon Clifford) – 6:05
Count Basie - piano Zoot Sims - tenor saxophone John Heard - double bass Louie Bellson - drums

This is a classic encounter that has been reissued on CD in the Original Jazz Classics series. Pianist Count Basie (in his best-small group outing of the 1970's) and tenor-saxophonist Zoot Sims were mutually inspired by each other's presence and, with the tasteful assistance of bassist John Heard and drummer Louie Bellson, they can be heard playing at the peak of their creative powers. Every listener interested in swinging jazz should pick up this disc, if only to hear these hard-charging versions of "I Never Knew," "It's Only A Paper Moon" and "Honeysuckle Rose." A gem, essential music. ---Scott Yanow

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