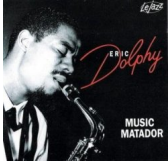


Eric Dolphy - Music Matador (1963)

Written by bluesever

Monday, 20 June 2011 11:50 - Last Updated Thursday, 16 October 2014 20:38

Eric Dolphy - Music Matador (1963)



01 Jitterbug Waltz 02 Music Matador 03 Alone Together 04 Come Sunday 05 Ode to C.P. 06 Love Me [play](#) Musicians: Eric Dolphy (alto saxophone, flute, bass clarinet) Clifford Jordan (soprano saxophone) Huey Simmons (alto saxophone) Woody Shaw Jr. (trumpet) Prince Lasha (flute) Bobby Hutcherson (vibraphone) Richard Davis, Eddie Kahn (bass) J.C. Moses, Charles Moffet (drums).

In the spring of 1963, in the last full year of his life, Eric Dolphy recorded nine tracks in New York with producer Alan Douglas. Working with an ensemble that was mixed and matched in different configurations and included Prince Lasha on flute, Clifford Jordan on soprano sax, Woody Shaw on trumpet, Huey Simmons on alto sax, Bobby Hutcherson on vibraphone (there was no pianist at the sessions), bassists Richard Davis and Eddie Kahn, and drummers J.C. Moses and Charles Moffett, Dolphy tracked material that clearly anticipated his landmark *Out to Lunch* album that appeared in 1964 while still providing a bridge to the more traditionally accessible work that preceded it. Dolphy delivered some of the best and most striking work of his career, whether offering full-band treatments of originals like "Iron Man" and "Burning Spear"; giving a loose and lilting calypso feel to "Music Matador"; turning Fats Waller's "Jitterbug Waltz" upside down and sideways; or playing wonderful lines on flute, bass clarinet, and alto saxophone. The sessions were split up and originally issued as a pair of LPs, *Conversations* and *Iron Man*, and have been reissued in different configurations and under different titles many times since. The complete sessions are available on CD as the double-disc *Dolphy Sound* from Jazz World, and that's ultimately the way to go, although this set holds up quite well as a sequence. The bottom line is that no Dolphy fan should be without the material recorded at these 1963 New York sessions. The music is brilliant no matter whether it's presented in part or in whole, but once you hear it, you'll want it all. --- Steve Leggett. AMG

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The sessions on this CD were recorded by producer Alan Douglas in the spring of 1963. Eric died in 6/29/64. So this is mature Eric, and in my opinion, as good as he ever played. His solo on "Alone Together" sends chills up my spine every time I hear it, and is reason enough to get this recording. This is a duet with bassist Richard Davis. Another equally stirring duet with Richard is "Come Sunday." Another highlight is a searing alto solo by Eric on "Love Me." The other numbers are played by various groupings including jazz greats Woody Shaw, Clifford Jordan, Prince Lasha, Sonny Simmons, Bobby Hutcherson, and more. This is great company. The CD I own is on the "Le Jazz" label. These sessions have been released under various labels and various titles. Additional selections from these sessions have appeared on CDs titled "Conversations" and "Iron Man." Some repeat titles on this CD, others have titles not included on this CD. You may find these recordings in the bargain bin, or for sale for exorbitant amounts on the internet. They may be worth any price. I have read that the sound quality on these recordings is less than good. I have not found this to be the case. Get any of these titles, and you won't be disappointed by the sound or music. While I'm at it, let me name my selection of the best 3 solos by Eric. By definition, they would also be among the best solos in jazz history: 1) "Alone Together" in this session. 2)"Round Midnight" on George Russel's "Ezzthetic" and 3)"All the Things You Could Be By Now If Sigmund Freud's Wife Was Your Mother" on Charles Mingus' "Charles Mingus Presents Charles Mingus." These are a few of my favorite things.
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