

Gene Ammons – Up Tight! (1961)

Written by bluesever

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1. *The Breeze And I* 2. *Carbow* 3. *Moonglow* 4. *I'm Afraid The Masquerade Is Over* 5. *I'm Beginning To See The Light* 6. *Jug's Blue Blues* 7. *Lester Leaps In* 8. *The Five O'Clock Whistle* 9. *I Sold My Heart To The Junkman* 10. *Song Of The Islands* 11. *Up Tight* 12. *Travelin'* 13. *Soft Summer Breeze* 14. *Don't Go To Strangers* Personnel: Gene Ammons (tenor saxophone); Walter Bishop, Jr., Patti Brown (piano); Arthur Davis, George Duvivier (bass); Arthur Taylor (drums); Ray Barretto (congas).

Gene Ammons recorded many albums for Prestige but, if this CD is a good start for listeners unfamiliar with his playing. A reissue of two LPs (*Up Tight* and *Boss Soul*) recorded during the same two-day period, these performances find Ammons backed by a pair of four-piece rhythm sections (with either Walter Bishop or Patti Bown on piano and Ray Barretto's congas a major asset) and taking the lion's share of the solo space. Ammons sounds particularly warm and emotional throughout this CD, particularly on such numbers as "The Breeze and I," "I'm Afraid the Masquerade Is over," a cooking "Lester Leaps In" and "Song of the Islands." His sound and style effectively bridged the gap between bop and soul jazz. ---Scott Yanow, Rovi

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