Jaco Pastorius – Pastorius Brian Melvin – Jazz Street (1986)



1. No Slack 2. Jazz Street 3. Miles" Mode 4. May Day 5. Wedding Waltz 6. Out of the Night 7. Drums of Yadzarah Jon Davis - Piano, Synthesizer Keith Jones - Bass Bill Keaney - Percussion, Synthesizer Brian Melvin - Drum Programming, Drums, Percussion Paul Mousavi - Guitar Jaco Pastorius - Bass Rick Smith - Drum Programming, Saxophone

Jaco Pastorius' recording sessions with drummer Brian Melvin resulted in five releases: four studio (including Jazz Street) and one live. This body of work is unique in that it not only takes the electric bassist out of his New York element but also represents a focused, reinvigorated Pastorius.

The instrumental Jazz Street, one of Pastorius' last studio dates, places him in a west coast pop-jazz climate and he comes through with flying colors. His playing is clear and vibrant, best exemplified on Joe Henderson's "Out of the Night" which features extended, fluid soloing by Pastorius. He's also quite prominent on "No Slack" and the title track, two upbeat cuts on which Pastorius slickly executes some very familiar licks and riffs. Honorable mentions go to Jon Davis' bluesy piano piece "Wedding Waltz" and Melvin's atmospheric "Drums of Yadzarah," an offbeat drums/percussion/synth creation.

Though Jazz Street was most likely the last Pastorius/Melvin collaboration, it most closely resembles their first, the superior Night Food, recorded almost two years earlier -- not to be confused with Melvin's later, nearly identically titled release, Nightfood, featuring Bob Weir. --- David Ross Smith, Rovi

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