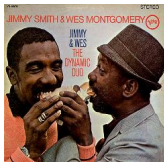


Jimmy Smith & Wes Montgomery – The Dynamic Duo (1966)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 18 October 2009 14:31 - Last Updated Tuesday, 09 December 2014 14:11

Jimmy Smith & Wes Montgomery – The Dynamic Duo (1966)



01 - *Down By The Riverside*.mp3 02 - *Happy-Go-Lucky (aka Night Train)*.mp3 03 - *James And Wes*.mp3 04 - *13 (Death March)*.mp3 05 - *Baby, It's Cold Outside*.mp 06 - *O.G.D. (aka Road Song)*.mp3 Personnel: Jimmy Smith (organ); Wes Montgomery (guitar); Oliver Nelson (conductor); Jerry Dodgion (alto saxophone, clarinet, flute); Bob Ashton (tenor saxophone, clarinet, flute, alto flute); Phil Woods, Danny Bank (baritone saxophone, bass clarinet, flute, alto flute); Clark Terry (trumpet, flugelhorn); Jimmy Maxwell, Joe Newman, Ernie Royal (trumpet); Jimmy Cleveland, Quinten Jackson, Melba Liston (trombone); Tony Studd, Dick Hixson (bass trombone); Jerome Richardson (clarinet, alto & tenor flutes); Richard Davis (bass); Grady Tate (drums); Ray Barretto (conga, jingle bells).

Creed Taylor matched two of his most famous artists, Wes Montgomery and Jimmy Smith, on this session (Montgomery's last for Verve), and the results are incendiary -- a near-ideal meeting of yin and yang. Smith comes at your throat with his big attacks and blues runs while Montgomery responds with rounder, smoother octaves and single notes that still convey much heat. They are an amazing pair, complementing each other, driving each other, using their bop and blues taproots to fuse together a sound. The romping, aggressive big band charts -- Oliver Nelson at his best -- on "Down by the Riverside" and "Night Train," and the pungently haunting chart for Gary McFarland's "13" (Death March)" still leave plenty of room for the soloists to stretch out. "James and Wes" and "Baby, It's Cold Outside" include drummer Grady Tate and conguero Ray Barretto, with Smith's own feet working the organ pedals. The Verve Master Edition reissue also includes an alternate take of "O.G.D." with Tate and Barretto, a track previously surfacing on a long-gone Encyclopedia of Jazz anthology LP from the '60s -- a neat bonus that makes this the preferred version. --- Richard S. Ginell, Rovi

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