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Don Cherry - Where Is Brooklyn ? (1966)



1. "Awake Nu" - 6:55 2. "Taste Maker" - 6:48 3. "The Thing" - 5:50 4. "There is the Bomb" - 4:51 5. "Unite" - 17:48 Don Cherry - cornet Pharoah Sanders - tenor saxophone, piccolo Henry Grimes - bass Ed Blackwell – drums

Where Is Brooklyn was Don Cherry's final album for Blue Note, and it returned to the quartet format of Complete Communion, this time featuring Pharoah Sanders on tenor sax along with bassist Henry Grimes and drummer Ed Blackwell. Here, Cherry abandons his concept of recording all the album's compositions as side-long medleys; rather, each is treated separately, with spaces in between the tracks. There wasn't a need to integrate the compositions by periodically returning to their themes, so perhaps that's why Cherry doesn't really focus as much on bringing out his compositions this time around. Where Is Brooklyn is much more about energy and thoughtful group interaction than memorable themes, and so there's just a little something missing in comparison to Cherry's prior albums, even though they did also emphasize the qualities on display here. Nonetheless, it's still a fine record for what it does concentrate on; Sanders is in typically passionate form, and the rest of the ensemble members have already honed their interplay to a pretty sharp edge. It's worth hearing, even if it isn't as essential as Complete Communion or Symphony for Improvisers. ---Steve Huey, Rovi

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