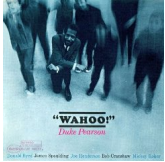


Duke Pearson – Wahoo (1964)

Written by bluesever

Friday, 14 May 2010 16:05 - Last Updated Sunday, 05 October 2014 08:53

Duke Pearson – Wahoo (1964)



1. *Amanda (Pearson)* - 9:24
2. *Bedouin (Pearson)* - 9:27
3. *Farewell Machel (Pearson)* - 2:46
4. *Wahoo (Pearson)* - 7:16
5. *ESP (Extrasensory Perception) (Pearson)* - 7:49
6. *Fly Little Bird Fly (Byrd)* - 6:11

Personnel:

- Duke Pearson - piano
- Donald Byrd - trumpet
- James Spaulding - alto sax & flute
- Joe Henderson - tenor sax
- Bob Cranshaw - bass
- Mickey Roker – drums

A truly wonderful advanced hard bop date, *Wahoo* captures pianist Duke Pearson at his most adventurous and creative. With the exception of Donald Byrd's closing "Fly Little Bird Fly," Pearson wrote all of the material on this six-song album, and his compositions are clever, melodic, and unpredictable without being cloying or inaccessible. He has assembled a first-rate sextet to perform the material, enlisting trumpeter Byrd, tenor saxophonist Joe Henderson, bassist Bob Cranshaw, alto saxophonist/flautist James Spaulding, and drummer Mickey Roker. Even the subdued "Wahoo" and "ESP" search out new territory with their subtle themes and exploratory solo sections. The key to the success of *Wahoo* is that Duke Pearson is a gifted arranger, creating nimble, challenging arrangements that are accessible, but reveal more details upon each listen. As a pianist, he has moved beyond his initial Bud Powell influence and reveals new aspects of his technique. Henderson, Byrd, and Spaulding are equally impressive, helping elevate *Wahoo* to one of the finest sophisticated hard bop dates Blue Note released in the mid-'60s. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, Rovi

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