

René Thomas - Jaspar Quintet (1997)

Written by bluesever

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1 Oleo 5:03 2 Theme for Freddie 4:15 [play](#) 3 Half Nelson 7:07 4 But Not for Me 6:05 5 Hannies 'Dream 5:35 6 Bernie's Taste 4:10 7 Smoke Gets in Your Eyes 2:53

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8 I Remember Sonny 8:32

Musicians: Tenor Saxophone, Flute – Bobby Jaspar Bass – Maurizio Majorana Guitar – René Thomas Drums – Franco Mondini Piano – Amedeo Tommasi

René Thomas (25 February 1927, Liege, Belgium – 3 January 1975, Spain) is considered one of the greatest jazz guitarists of the 1960s, but has remained rather unknown to the general public. After the Second World War, he played with the "Bop Shots", Belgium's first be-bop outfit with Jacques Pelzer and Bobby Jaspar. Between these three men a real musical osmosis arose.

In the early 1950s, Thomas moved to Paris where he connected with the modern jazz scene. In 1954, he recorded his first album under his own name. His reputation as a virtuoso guitarist and inventive musician spread rapidly in the small jazz world.

In 1956, he moved to Canada. He played regularly for the Montreal jazz society and met American musicians, including Sonny Rollins, who becomes impressed enough to invite him for a concert in Philadelphia and for the recording, in 1958, of his Sonny Rollins and the Big Brass album. In the United States, René played with the best jazz musicians of that era: Stan Getz, Miles Davis, Toshiko Akiyoshi and Jackie McLean. In 1960, he recorded the album Guitar Groove.

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Returning to Europe in 1962, he toured and recorded with Chet Baker, Bobby Jaspar, Kenny Clarke, Eddy Louiss, Charles Lolo Bellonzi, Ingfried Hoffman, Stan Getz, Lucky Thompson, Sonny Criss, Jacques Pelzer and Lou Bennett.

He died on 3 January 1975 of a sudden heart attack in Spain, while touring with Lou Bennett.

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