Written by bluesever Saturday, 25 April 2015 15:59 -

Shorty Rogers - Jazz Waltz (1962)



1. I'm Gonna Go Fishin' (4:34) 2. Greensleeves (5:28) 3. Walk on the Wild Side (4:18) 4. Witchcraft (2:57) 5. Be as Children (3:36) 6. Jazz Waltz (4:07) 7. Echoes of Harlem (4:44) 8. A Taste of Honey (2:53) 9. Terrence's Farewell (3:35) 10. The Streets of Laredo (4:07) Shorty Rogers — fluegelhorn Ray Triscari — trumpet Al Porcino — trumpet Ollie Mitchell — trumpet Joe Burnett — trumpet Milt Bernhardt — trombone Harry Betts — trombone Kenny Shroyer — bass trombone George Roberts — bass trombone Joe Mani — alto sax Bud Shank — alto sax Bob Cooper — tenor sax Bill Perkins — tenor sax Bill Hood — bass sax Lou Levy — piano Mel Lewis — drums Joe Mondragon — bass Larry Bunker — vibes

Shorty Rogers' Jazz Waltz is exactly that, an exploration of ten compositions played in waltz settings. Only these big-band charts are hardly the waltzes heard on Lawrence Welk's long-running television series. Rogers kicks off with a swinging number ("I'm Gonna Go Fishin'") written by Duke Ellington for the soundtrack to the film Anatomy of a Murder and featuring the leader's rich flügelhorn. The lyrical take of the centuries-old folk melody "Greensleeves" alternates between the tense rhythm section and Bud Shank's gorgeous flute solo. Rogers' delightful "Be as Children" almost sounds as if it was adapted from a gospel song. The brisk treatment of Ellington's "Echoes of Harlem," featuring Paul Horn on flute, is refreshing. Only Bobby Scott's "A Taste of Honey" is the least bit disappointing, simply because this arrangement isn't quite as adventurous as the rest of the album. Originally issued by Reprise in 1962 and out of print for decades, this album was finally reissued by Collectables in a compilation with another LP by Rogers, Bossa Nova. ---Ken Dryden, Rovi

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