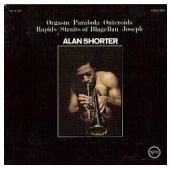
Alan Shorter - Orgasm (1968)



1. Parabola 2. Joseph 3. Straits of Blagellan 4. Rapids 5. Outeroids 6. Orgasm
Musicians: Alan Shorter - Flügelhorn (all tracks except track 4), Trumpet (track 4), Tambourine (track 4) Gato Barbieri - Tenor Sax Charlie Haden - Bass (tracks 1, 6) Reggie Johnson - Bass (tracks 2, 3, 4, 5) Rashied Ali - Drums (tracks 1, 6) Muhammad Ali - Drums (tracks 2, 3, 4, 5)

One of only two sessions led by flügelhornist Alan Shorter (Wayne's older brother), this set (which was reissued as a 1998 CD) is a near-classic. Shorter and his quartet (with tenor saxophonist Gato Barbieri, either Charlie Haden or Reggie Johnson on bass, and Muhammad Ali or Rashied Ali on drums) perform six of the leader's complex originals. Barbieri lets out some strong screams in places but sounds more restrained and coherent than on his other avant-garde recordings of the period. The rhythm sections are stimulating and alert, while Shorter, although not a virtuoso, comes up with consistently inventive ideas. The style is sometimes slightly reminiscent of Ornette Coleman (partly due to the presence of Haden), but Shorter had apparently not heard Ornette's band before recording this music. Well worth several listens. ---Scott Yanow, Rovi

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