

Art Blakey & The Jazz Messengers - Live In Zurich (1958)

Written by bluesever

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CD-1: 1. *Now's The Time* (13:17) 2. *The Theme* (6:48) 3. *Moanin'* (14:30) 4. *Whisper Not* (11:05) 5. *Evidence* (6:24) CD-2: 1. *I Remember Clifford* (7:57) 2. *Just By Myself* (6:37) 3. *Along Came Betty* (10:52) 4. *My Funny Valentine* (6:30) 5. *Come Rain Or Come Shine* (8:46) 6. *A Night In Tunisia* (9:09) Lee Morgan - trumpet Benny Golson - tenor sax Bobby Timmons - piano Jymie Merritt - bass Art Blakey - drums Live At Volkshaus, Zurich, Switzerland, December 4, 1958 All Track Previously Unissued

This CD release of Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers is stunning. If you are an enthusiast for Blakey and his band, you undoubtedly know that the Messengers had many, many line-ups. The 1958 band, with Benny Golson on tenor, was one of the strongest. Unfortunately, it was short-lived. Golson stayed around for less than one year, made the European tour from which these concert recordings were culled, and left an indelible mark as musical director and chief composer for the group. In 1959, Wayne Shorter filled his chair and the group membership remained stable for several years. With Golson, the band was able to record only one studio album, *Moanin'*, for Blue Note. Thankfully, several concerts from the 1958 tour have survived. But one is left wondering: how in the world could jazz this breath-taking have been left in the vaults for 52 years before release? Every note by these musicians deserves celebration. How could the world have been deprived of these performances by Lee Morgan for so long? Morgan was a twenty-year-old youth at the time of the concert, but he plays with all the assurance and erudition of a trumpeter who had played for decades. He caresses notes, stops on a dime, charges forth when necessary, and delivers solos bursting with ideas. The man could do no wrong. Stunning. And the band. Golson and Morgan were some front line. They play together as one over long, inspired passages which then introduce the most beautiful solos. Blakey is always pushing the band. Bobby Timmons on piano and Jymie Merritt on bass give magisterial performances. The sound quality of the concerts is very good for 1958. Golson's compositions litter the two-disc, two-set concert. A very strong version of *Whisper Not* is among my personal favorites. Timmons stretches out on an extended version of *My Funny Valentine*, and it's a joy to hear. Buy this set, listen to it, and be in awe. And if you need more from this line-up of the Messengers, find copies of the performances they made at the L'Olympia Theatre (on Fontana)

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and the Club Saint-Germain (on RCA) in Paris in the fall of 1958. You'll love those records, too. Highest recommendation. ---Marks, amazon.com

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