Written by bluesever Wednesday, 10 August 2016 12:30 -

Gene Ammons - Boss Tenor (1960/2016)



01. Hittin' The Jug (8:31) 02. Close Your Eyes (3:46) 03. My Romance (4:16) 04. Canadian Sunset (5:25) 05. Blue Ammons (4:58) 06. Confirmation (5:25) 07. Savoy (3:33) Gene Ammons - tenor saxophone Tommy Flanagan - piano Doug Watkins - bass Art Taylor - drums Ray Barretto – congas

The great tenor saxophonist Gene Ammons was of the generation of swing-era players that easily adapted to bop. But though he was a modernist, Ammons maintained that breathy, old-school romantic approach to the tenor. Boss Tenor, a quintet session from 1960, is one of Ammons' very best albums. Ray Barretto's congas subtly add a bit of Latin spice, but otherwise this is a collection of standards rendered with a gorgeous late-night bluesy feel. Accompaniment by Tommy Flanagan, one of the best mainstream pianists ever, certainly doesn't hurt, either. A gem. --- Mark Keresman, Rovi

For nearly a quarter-century, beginning in 1950, tenor saxophonist Gene Ammons (1925-1974) was among the brightest stars in the Prestige Records firmament. Whether leading, or partaking in, one of Prestige's jam sessions, immersing himself in the organ-dominated blues and gospel grooves that in the 1950s came to be called "soul jazz," or digging deep for heart-rending ballads, Ammons was multiply masterful. And in 1960, leading a quintet featuring the impeccable pianist Tommy Flanagan, plus Ray Barretto's piquant congas, he produced the insuperable Boss Tenor.

From the blues that drips from "Hittin' the Jug" and "Blue Ammons" to the infectious medium

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bounce of the standards "Close Your Eyes" and "Canadian Sunset," and from the sophisticated swing of "Stompin' at the Savoy" to the finger-poppin' bop of "Confirmation" and the after-hours balladry of "My Romance," Boss Tenor has something for everyone claiming to be a fan of modern jazz. --- store.acousticsounds.com

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