

Gene Ammons - Boss Tenor (1960/2016)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 10 August 2016 12:30 -

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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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