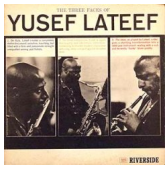
Yusef Lateef - The Three Faces of Yusef Lateef (1960/1992)



1. Goin' Home (Antonin Dvorák/Mark Fisher) 5:04 2. I'm Just a Lucky So and So (Mack David/Duke Ellington) 4:39 3. Quarantine (Abe Woodley) 7:03 4. From Within (Yusef Lateef) 4:14 5. Salt Water Blues (Yusef Lateef) 6:50 6. Lateef Minor 7th (Joe Zawinul) 5:01 7. Adoration (Yusef Lateef) 4:34 8. Ma (He's Making Eyes at Me) (Sidney Clare/Con Conrad) 4:56 Yusef Lateef (Tenor Saxophone, Oboe, Flute) Ron Carter (Cello) - 1,2,4-7 Hugh Lawson (Piano, Celeste) Herman Wright (Double Bass) Lex Humphries (Drums, Timpani)

On The Three Faces of Yusef Lateef, Riverside seems eager to present Yusef Lateef, technical virtuoso, on a series of songs that step closer to jazz tradition than any of his work in the recent past. Largely absent are Lateef's experiments with Eastern modes, rhythms, and instrumentation, and in their place is a collection of largely upbeat, accessible songs, with a balanced mix of standards and originals. Much of the introspective, personal quality of his previous albums seems lost in the effort, but Lateef's playing still remains stellar, especially on oboe. That instrument, which is by nature soft and muted, is given enough power by Lateef to lead on several songs, most beautifully on "Salt Water Blues," where its naturally melancholy sound seems perfectly matched with the low, rounded tones of Lateef's rhythm section, especially Ron Carter's bowed cello. The quintet also shines on the following track, Joe Zawinul's "Lateef Minor 7th," where they provide a gentle counterpoint to Lateef's sweet flute line. Not quite as expansive or daring as much of Lateef's other recordings, The Three Faces of Yusef Lateef still documents a fine musician at work during the peak of his career. --- Stacia Proefrock. Rovi

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