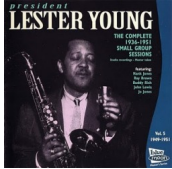


Lester Young - The Complete 1936-1951 Small Group Sessions Vol.5 (2005)

Written by bluesever

Tuesday, 09 August 2011 11:53 - Last Updated Friday, 16 January 2015 18:16

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01 - *Too Marvelous for Words* 02 - *'Deed I Do* 03 - *Encore* 04 - *Polka Dots and Moonbeams* [play](#) 05 - *Up And At'em* 06 - *Three Little Words* 07 - *Count Every Star* 08 - *It All Depends on You* 09 - *Neenah* 10 - *Jeepers Creepers* 11 - *Thou Swell* 12 - *September in the Rain* [play](#) 13 - *Undercover (Girl) Blues* 14 - *Frenesí* 15 - *Pete's Café* 16 - *Little Pee Blues* 17 - *A Foggy Day* 18 - *In a Little Spanish Town* 19 - *Let's Fall in Love* 20 - *Down 'n' At'em* 21 - *Lester Swings* 22 - *Slow Motion Blues*

Lester Young Featured: Hank Jones, Ray Brown, Buddy Rich, John Lewis, Joe Shulman, Bill Clarke, Gene Ramey, and Jo Jones.

Towards the end of the forties, a significant change occurred in Lester Young's way of playing, perhaps more drastic than that which had taken place between 1942 and 1943, when little by little his sound began to darken. It was now recovering to some extent something of the brightness which had characterised his first recordings, although at the same time his physical and mental state deteriorated. Two aspects were now acquiring more importance for him: his love for ballads, including Frank Sinatra and Jo Stafford songs, to which he gave increasing value to the lyrics; and the quality of his accompanists.

Thus, in the session with Hank Jones he interprets "Polka Dots and Moonbeams" with unusual candour, fully demonstrating his vulnerability. About the three sessions with John Lewis, Gunther Schuller wrote: "I am convinced that Lewis was Lester's favourite pianist..... the seventeen sides Lester recorded with Lewis are to his late discography like rays of sunshine are after days of overcast skies" ---J. G. Calvados

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