

Miles Davis - Sketches of Spain (1961)

Written by bluesever

Friday, 26 February 2010 12:05 - Last Updated Tuesday, 10 February 2015 16:53

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1. "Concierto de Aranjuez" (Adagio) (Joaquín Rodrigo) – 16:19 2. "Will o' the Wisp" (Manuel de Falla) – 3:47 3. "The Pan Piper" (Gil Evans) – 3:52 4. "Saeta" (Evans) – 5:06 5. "Solea" (Evans) – 12:15 Personnel: Danny Bank — bass clarinet Bill Barber — tuba John Barrows — French horn Albert Block — flute James Buffington — French horn Eddie Caine — flute, flugelhorn Paul Chambers — bass Earl Chapin — French horn Jimmy Cobb — drums Johnny Coles — trumpet Miles Davis — trumpet, flugelhorn Gil Evans — arranger, conductor Harold Feldman — clarinet, flute, oboe Bernie Glow — trumpet Dick Hixon — trombone Elvin Jones — percussion Taft Jordan — trumpet Jack Knitzer — bassoon Jose Mangual — percussion Jimmy McAllister — tuba Tony Miranda — French horn Louis Mucci — trumpet Romeo Penque — oboe Janet Putnam — harp Frank Rehak — trombone Ernie Royal — trumpet Joe Singer — French horn

Sketches of Spain is one of Miles Davis' most enduring and innovative achievements. Recorded in November 1959, Davis teamed with Canadian arranger Gil Evans for the third time. Davis brought Evans the album's signature piece, "Concierto de Aranjuez," after hearing a classical version of it and set about to create an entire album of material around it. The result is a masterpiece of modern art. On the "Concierto," Evans' arrangement provided an orchestra and jazz band the opportunity to record a classical work as it was. The piece is one of the most memorable works to come from popular culture in the 20th century. Davis' control over his instrument is singular, and Evans' conducting is flawless. Also notable are "Saeta," with one of the most amazing technical solos of Davis' career, and the album's closer, "Solea," based on an Andalusian folk song, about a woman who encounters the procession taking Christ to Calvary. This set includes the original album along with rehearsal and alternate takes previously heard only on the 1996 set Miles Davis & Gil Evans: The Complete Columbia Studio Recordings, plus the only piece ever performed live by Miles with Gil -- "Concierto de Aranjuez" performed at Carnegie Hall on May 19, 1961. The package offers rare photos, correspondence, and clippings including the 1960 HiFi/Stereo Review article by Nat Hentoff describing the Nov. 15, 1959 recording session. ---Editorial Reviews

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