Roy Eldridge - Arcadia Shuffle (1939)

1.Little Jazz 2.Mahogany Hall Stomp 3.Body and Soul 4.Arcadia Shuffle 5.St. Louis Blues 6.Swinging at the Deuces 7.The Gasser (Sweet Georgia Brown) 8.Yellow Fire 9.Shine 10.Minor Jive 11.Woodchopper's Ball 12.Heckler's Hop 13.Sam, Sam the Vegetable Man 14.Oh, Lady Be Good 15.Roy's Riffin' Now 16.King of Bongo Bong 17.Pluckin' the Bass/Little Jazz Personnel: Roy Eldridge (trumpet, vocals on 5 & 16) Robert Williams (trumpet) Eli Robinson (trombone) Joe Eldridge (alto sax) Prince Robinson (tenor sax, clarinet) Franz Jackson (tenor sax) Clyde Hart (piano) John Collins (guitar) Ted Sturgis (bass) Panama Francis (drums) Laurel Watson (vocal on 13)

After Roy Eldridge's lengthy stay at the Three Deuces Club in Chicago, he next set up shop at the Arcadia Ballroom in New York. Louis Armstrong had been the undisputed King of jazz trumpet over the past decade, but by now nobody could touch Little Jazz. He pays homage to his idol but is also doing things that no other trumpet player had ever attempted. These broadcast transcriptions, taken from four nights between August 5th and September 9th, were recorded on acetate discs so there are some rather abrupt beginnings and endings along with the usual surface noise.

On this LP the great swing trumpeter Roy Eldridge is heard leading his ten-piece group at New York's Arcadia Ballroom. These radio broadcasts were somewhat primitively recorded but the excitement of Eldridge's playing shines through. Although this particular band did record eight titles later in the year, most of the music on this set (including "Little Jazz," "Mahogany Hall Stomp," "Shine," "Woodchopper's Ball" and "Lady Be Good") was not recorded by the trumpeter during the era. This album is worth searching for by swing collectors. --Scott Yanow, Rovi

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