

Stan Getz – Focus (1961)

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01. *I'm Late, I'm Late* 02. *Her* 03. *Pan* 04. *I Remember When* 05. *Night Rider* 06. *Once Upon A Time* 07. *A Summer Afternoon* 08. *I'm Late, I'm Late Stan* 09. *I Remember When*
Personnel: Stan Getz (tenor saxophone); Steve Kuhn (piano); John Neves (bass); Roy Haynes (drums); Alan Martin, Norman Carr, Gerald Tarack (violin); Jacob Glick (viola); Bruce Rogers (cello); Eddie Sauter (arranger); Hershy Kay (conductor).

A year or two shy of his bossa nova success, Stan Getz set his mind to improvising against a backdrop of darkish yet scintillating string charts. The orchestral muscle was provided by arranger Eddie Sauter; the heady and fluid horn lines, of course, came from Getz. The jazz star might have been all airy samba fog to some, but on this classic date he really showed his expansive horn talents: whether leaping and yelping on such galvanizing sides as "I'm Late, I'm Late" or ingeniously responding to the many shades heard in a grand ballad like "I Remember When," Getz is never short on ideas or panache. Admittedly Getz's most challenging date and arguably his finest moment, *Focus* roams the vast jazz landscape outside of bop and boogaloo to fabulous and memorable effect. [The 2003 Japanese reissue is identical to the original release. It does have dynamically remastered sound and an exact miniature replica of the original gatefold cover in thick cardboard with a rice paper sleeve.] ---Stephen Cook, Rovi

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