

Steve Lacy - Epistrophy (1969)

Written by bluesever

Monday, 20 March 2017 15:46 -

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A1 Thelonious 7:12 A2 Ruby My Dear 4:23 A3 Light Blue 5:57 A4 Epistrophy 2:14 B1 Epistrophy 6:46 B2 Misterioso 3:58 B3 Friday The Thirteenth 5:47 Steve Lacy - soprano saxophone Michel Graillier - piano Jean-François Jenny Clark - bass Aldo Romano – drums

Epistrophy is the first record Lacy made after taking up residence in Paris. His band for the outing features the legendary Italian drummer Aldo Romano, the pianist Michel Graillier, and bassist Jean-François Jenny-Clark. There are five unusually complex Monk tunes here -- "Thelonious," "Ruby My Dear," "Light Blue," "Misterioso," and "Friday the Thirteenth" -- and two versions of "Epistrophy." This is easily Lacy's "straightest" album from the period, and he stays melodically and harmonically close to Monk's original compositions in the heads before taking off somewhere else in the solos. But Lacy keeps to the notion of repetition, syncopation, and melodic invention that Monk did, and the band is nearly symbiotic in its communication around and with him. The music here is a delight and a revelation all at the same time. The sound is warm and full and the transfer is solid. ---Thom Jurek, AllMusic Review

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