Mat Mathews - Swingin' Pretty and All That Jazz (1959)



01. One, Two, Button Your Shoe (4:33) 02. My Devotion (2:53) 03. The Moon Got In My Eyes (3:32) 04. Oh What It Seemed To Be (2:43) 05. Honeysuckle Rose (4:50) 06. East Of The Sun (4:20) 07. The Music Goes 'Round And 'Round (4:38) 08. My Foolish Heart (3:17) 09. Talk Of The Town (2:45) Accordion – Mat Mathews Guitar – Bucky Pizzarelli Harp – Gene Bianco Percussion – Teddy Sommer Violin – Gunnar Hansen

Mat Mathews played pushbutton accordion in his homeland of the Netherlands, but his American records failed to catch on with jazz collectors. This 1959 Design LP was, evidently, the last album he made in the United States before he returned home. His unusual sextet includes guitarist Bucky Pizzarelli, harpist Gene Bianco, bassist Vinnie Burke, violinist Gunnar Hansen, and percussionist Teddy Sommer. Part of the difficulty in appreciating Mathews' work is that the pushbutton accordion is not as powerful an instrument as its cousin with a keyboard; as a result, the leader's solos don't particularly stand out. Pizzarelli easily takes top honors in the solo department, especially in "Honeysuckle Rose," though Hansen shows flashes of potential throughout the sessions. Since jazz accordion fans are a relatively small group, there's always a chance for them to stumble across this long unavailable release in the bargain bins of used record stores. ---Ken Dryden, AllMusic Review

Mat Mathews, born in Holland, traveled extensively in Europe and North Africa before coming to the United States in 1952. He is a true 'international musician' with strong contemporary American leanings.

Mat Mathew's experience have been varied: played with his original combo in Birdland and other jazz clubs throughout the United States, arranged and conducted the orchestra behind Carmen MacRae's first recordings, appeared on major television shows as jazz soloist... Arthur Godfrey... Tonight Show... CBS TV... and so on. Mat's appearances at military installations and USO clubs have been received with great enthusiasm by the boys. ---Mark Betcher, artworkbymanicmark.blogspot.com

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