

Fats Navarro - Nostalgia (1958)

Written by bluesever

Tuesday, 12 February 2019 16:36 -

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A1 Nostalgia A2 Barry's Bop A3 Be Bop Romp A4 Fats Blows A5 Dextivity A6 Dextrose B1 Dexter's Mood B2 Index B3 Stealing Trash B4 Hollerin' & Screamin' B5 Fracture B6 Calling Dr. Jazz Bass – Gene Ramey, Nelson Boyd (tracks: A1 to B2) Drums – Art Blakey (tracks: A1 to A4), Art Mardigan (tracks: A5 to B2), Denzil Best Guitar – Huey Long Piano – Al Haig, Tadd Dameron (tracks: A1 to B2) Tenor Saxophone – Charlie Rouse (tracks: A1 to A4), Dexter Gordon (tracks: A5 to B2), Eddie Davis Trumpet – Fats Navarro

Taken from three different, late-'40s sessions, *Nostalgia* features Navarro in the fine company of bebop stars like Dexter Gordon, Tadd Dameron, and Art Blakey. While looser sounding than the legendary sides the trumpeter cut for Blue Note, the tracks here still include the usual bevy of sharp Navarro solos, plus stellar contributions by all involved. The first session with tenor saxophonist Charlie Rouse (one of the earliest recordings of the future Monk sideman), Dameron, and Blakey, finds Navarro mixing poised and fluid solo work with more intense high-note statements, demonstrating his masterful blend of both Miles Davis' cool approach and Dizzy Gillespie's incendiary technique. The highlights continue with four more cuts from a Dexter Gordon-led session from 1947, which adheres to the brief head statement and round of solos mode used on the earlier cuts. Dameron returns on piano, nicely comping behind Gordon's already distinct solo work and more of Navarro's pearl-like horn lines (these numbers have also been released on various Gordon titles on Savoy). The disc ends with a date led by honking tenor man Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis, which, while less intriguing than the other sessions, still swings mightily with a mix of bebop and R&B flavored tunes. *Nostalgia* is worthy of any jazz collection and certainly is an essential title from the bebop era. ---Stephen Cook, AllMusic Review

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