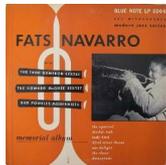


Fats Navarro - Memorial Album (1951)

Written by bluesever (Bogdan Marszałkowski)
Saturday, 31 October 2020 16:46 -

Fats Navarro - Memorial Album (1951)



01-The Squirrel 02-52nd Street Theme 03-Lady Bird 04-The Chase 05-Double Talk 06-Dameronia 07-Our Delight Trumpet – Fats Navarro,Howard McGhee Alto Saxophone – Ernie Henry Bass – Curly Russell,Nelson Boyd,Tommy Potter Drums – Kenny Clarke,Roy Haynes,Shadow Wilson Piano – Bud Powell,Tadd Dameron Tenor Saxophone – Charlie Rouse,Sonny Rollins,Wardell Gray

Along with other bebop sides Navarro did for Capitol and Blue Note, these Savoy cuts are part of the trumpeter's essential recordings. And being mindful of his early demise in 1950, it's amazing to realize that the Memorial album is one of several incredible sessions Navarro was able to produce in just over a two-year period during the late '40s. Teaming up with frequent musical partner Tadd Dameron, Navarro reels off fluid solos on both the outstanding Dameron original "The Tadd Walk" and a second impressive swinger "Be Bop Carroll." The remaining sides from this date feature vocalist Kay Penton, who, while not being terribly exciting, delivers some beguilingly languid lines; the rest of the top-flight group includes altoist Ernie Henry, bassist Curly Russell, and drummer Kenny Clarke. The second Navarro session here includes classics like "Webb City" and "Fat Boy," and features first-tier beboppers like trumpeter Kenny Dorham, altoist Sonny Stitt, pianist Bud Powell, and Clarke again on drums. As a sort of bonus, there are four additional tunes from this same session. Amazingly, though, Navarro is not on board, but the balance is quickly redressed with some high-quality originals and more incredible solo work by Dorham, Stitt, and Powell. A classic bebop session. ---Stephen Cook, AllMusic Review

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