Frank Wess - Jazz For Playboys (1957)

01.Playboys (05:27) 02.Miss Blues (09:40) 03.Baubles,Bangles And Beads (04:16) 04.Low Life (05:02) 05.Pin Up (04:07) 06.Blues For A Playmate (11:00) 07.Southern Exposure(alt.long take) (07:43) Frank Wess (flute, saxophone) Joe Newman (trumpet) Kenny Burrell, Freddie Green (guitar) Eddie Jones (bass) Ed Thigpen, Gus Johnson (drums).

This CD reissue has three songs apiece from two similar sessions. One half of the set features Frank Wess (doubling on flute and tenor) accompanied by both Kenny Burrell and Freddy Green on guitars, bassist Eddie Jones and drummer Gus Johnson; the other three titles add trumpeter Joe Newman and have Ed Thigpen in Johnson's place. The music is essentially cool-toned swing/bop very much in a Count Basie vein and is easily recommended to straightahead jazz fans despite the so-so packaging and LP-length playing time. ---Scott Yanow, AllMusic Review

Despite its easy bounce, swing is difficult music. It takes on one of music's hardest task: it makes a quarter note swing. The subtle rhythm shadings of swing and its joyful drive are on full display in this album by Count Basie veterans who understand swing as ensemble music--they know the secrets to how the band generates its power by its own counterpoint and riffs--a call and response that locks the music into its own personality of the blues, a physical style that dresses the mood. Swing is a conversation, animated, excited, soft, loud, sweet, witty, nutty, confessional. It's all here, it this album driven by Freddie Green's guitar, underneath the best melodies and lyrics of swing's best jazz creators. --- walterrhett, amazon.com

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