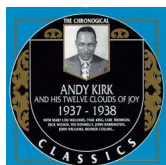


Andy Kirk And His Twelve Clouds Of Joy - The Chronological Classics 1936-1937 (1991)

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01. *Walkin' And Swingin'* (2:58) 02. *Moten Swing* (3:07) 03. *Lotta Sax Appeal* (2:57) 04. *Git* (2:53) 05. *All The Jive Is Gone* (2:39) 06. *Froggy Bottom* (3:12) 07. *Bearcat Shuffle* (3:03) 08. *Steppin' Pretty* (2:50) 09. *Christopher Columbus* (2:43) 10. *Corky* (2:29) 11. *I'se A Muggin'* (2:47) 12. *Until The Real Thing Comes Along* (2:58) 13. *Puddin' Head Serenade* (2:49) 14. *Until The Real Thing Comes Along* (3:02) 15. *Blue Illusion* (2:44) 16. *Cloudy* (2:56) 17. *Give Her A Pint (And She'll Tell It All)* (2:54) 18. *Puddin' Head Serenade* (2:37) 19. *Fifty-Second Street* (3:03) 20. *The Lady Who Swings The Band* (2:46) 21. *What Will I Tell My Heart?* (3:15) 22. *Dedicated To You* (3:23) 23. *Wednesday Night Hop* (3:08) 24. *Skies Are Blue* (3:01)

Andy Kirk Primary Artist, Sax (Baritone), Sax (Bass), Tuba Booker Collins Sax (Baritone), Sax (Bass) Ted Donnelly Trombone John Harrington Baritone, Clarinet, Sax (Alto), Sax (Baritone) Harry Lawson Director, Trumpet Earl Miller Sax (Alto) Harry Mills Featured Artist, Violin, Vocals Ted Robinson Guitar Pha Terrell Featured Artist, Violin, Vocals Ben Thigpen Drums, Featured Artist, Violin, Vocals Earl Thomson Arranger, Trumpet Henry Wells Trombone Claude "Fiddler" Williams Violin, Vocals John "Buddy" Williams Sax (Alto), Sax (Baritone) Mary Lou Williams Arranger, Piano Dick Wilson Sax (Tenor)

The Andy Kirk Orchestra ended their five-year hiatus from records in March 1936 in a big way, recording ten titles in their first session alone. Mary Lou Williams' arrangements and several strong soloists (including pianist Williams and tenor saxophonist Dick Wilson) gave the band its own musical personality, and their hit recording of "Until the Real Thing Comes Along" (included on this release) made the group a commercial success for a time. Vocalist Pha Terrell's high voice was always an acquired taste, and many of his vocals (other than the hit and "All the Jive Is Gone") are often difficult to sit through. However, most of the songs on this excellent CD are pretty heated, with highlights including "Walkin' and Swingin'," "Lotta Sax Appeal," "Froggy Bottom," "Christopher Columbus" and "The Lady Who Swings the Band." Listeners who are not completists (and the Classics CD series does skip over alternates anyway) may want to acquire GRP/Decca's single CD Mary's Idea instead. ---Scott Yanow, AllMusic Review

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