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Mosaic Select: Dexter Gordon (MS 014)

Text from mosaicrecords.com announcing this set:

"What's especially important to understand is how really together that band played night after night and how strongly that was driven and sustained by Dexter's ability to project a voice through his horn. There was the profound clarity of sound and absolutely unmistakable way he approached and articulated the music. Dexter's very deep love of song led us to play and phrase the song together as a band, no matter how hard we swung or lyrical we got."

Rufus Reid

Every great jazz soloist has sought the musicians who will come together with some indefinable empathy and form the perfect setting for his artistic voice. Some found it once; a handful were lucky enough to find it twice; many never found it at all. Dexter Gordon had to wait until his thirty-eighth year as a professional musician, when he formed his first real working group, an extraordinary quartet with pianist George Cables, bassist Rufus Reid and drummer Eddie Gladden that proved the ideal vehicle for his muscular, lyrical, hard-swinging brand of jazz.

In the '40s, Dexter Gordon made music with all other great be-bop pioneers (Charlie Parker, Bud Powell, Fats Navarro et al.) and forged his own truly original style, blending the language with Charlie Parker with the lyrical intellect of Lester Young.

While others put together working bands, Dexter was the bi-coastal tenor saxophone star who might be on 52nd Street with Bird and Miles one week and on Central Avenue with Wardell Gray the next. His nomadic ways carried on through his years in Europe (1962-77).

In 1977, he came home to a high-profile deal with Columbia Records and played to SRO audience at clubs around the country. Starting his own group became an inevitability. He, Cables, Reid and Gladden clicked immediately and so began one of the greatest and most rewarding chapters of Dexter's long musical career.

Unfortunately, this quartet made only one studio album in its two years of existence. But they toured the country constantly and their many appearances at San Francisco's Keystone Korner, which were informally recorded, have yielded these three CDs, originally issued as Nights At The Keystone on Blue Note. Culled from three weeks' worth of performances at one of Dexter's favorite clubs, this set represents three hours and 15 minutes of Dexter at his peak, propelled by a brilliant, empathetic rhythm section.

Track Listing & Discography

DISC ONE

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 1. It's You Or No One (B) | 10:26 | (J. Styne-S. Cahn) |
| 2. Sophisticated Lady (E) | 12:32 | (Ellington-Parish-Mills) |
| 3. Antabus (A) | 7:41 | (Dexter Gordon) |
| 4. Easy Living (F) | 17:19 | (L. Robin-R. Rainger) |
| 5. Backstairs/LTD (F) | 14:30 | (Dexter Gordon) |

DISC TWO

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| 1. The Panther (E) | 17:09 | (Dexter Gordon) |
| 2. Tangerine (B) | 13:10 | (V. Schwertzinger-J. Mercer) |
| 3. More Than You Know (G) | 11:11 | (Youmans-Rose-Eliscu) |
| 4. Gingerbread Boy (D) | 12:07 | (Jimmy Heath) |
| 5. Come Rain Or Come Shine (B) | 19:30 | (H. Arlen-J. Mercer) |

DISC THREE

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| 1. You've Changed (F) | 18:32 | (B. Carey-C. Fischer) |
| 2. Body And Soul (C) | 16:59 | (Green-Heyman-Sour-Eyton) |
| 3. I Told You So (D) | 13:42 | (George Cables) |
| 4. As Time Goes By (F) | 15:23 | (Herman Hupfield) |

Dexter Gordon, tenor saxophone; George Cables, piano; Rufus Reid, bass; Eddie Gladden, drums.

Recorded live at the Keystone Korner, San Francisco.

Recorded on May 13 (A), May 16 (B), September 16 (C), September 17 (D), 1978 and March 23 (E), March 24 (F), March 27 (G), 1979.

Produced by Todd Barkan

Original recordings by Rich McKean and Mark Romero

Sound restoration and transfer: Malcolm Addey

Mastering by Kurt Lundvall

Disc One (#1-4) and Disc Two (#2,3 & 5) were originally issued as the double LP *Nights At The Keystone* (Blue Note BABB 85112).

All material also issued on Blue Note CD B2-94848 (disc one), B2-94849 (disc two) and B2-94850 (disc three) as *Nights At The Keystone*, volumes one through three.

Note: All of this material was recorded off the sound system at the club at 7 ½ IPS rather than with professional remote recording equipment at 15 IPS. The quality of the music far outweighs the imperfections in the recording process

Limited Edition: 5000 copies | 3 CDs - \$39.00

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