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Mosaic Select: Art Pepper (MS 015)

Text from mosaicrecords.com announcing this set:

Art Pepper played not only with intensity and a rich, vivid tone, but with a yearning that let you know that his alto saxophone was plugged directly into his soul. There were no inhibitions or defense mechanisms operating when he put the horn to his lips.

Like Bud Shank, Art Pepper was a West Coast alto saxophonist deeply under the spell of Charlie Parker when everyone around him was more influenced by the cool school of Lester Young and Miles Davis. It is precisely the confluence of those two musical approaches that enabled Pepper (and Shank) to develop a warm, vibrant sound and a unique style rooted in Bird and graced with Pres's thoughtful lyricism.

As these 1956-57 Aladdin recordings attest, there can be little doubt that during the mid-to-late 1950s Art Pepper was at one of the several performing peaks that characterized his career in jazz, playing with great assurance, imaginative resourcefulness and burning intensity. They represent some of this alto saxophonist's best and most gripping work. Throughout, he plays with riveting passion and beauty, surrounded by his peers. This set starts with *The Return Of*, a quintet date with Jack Sheldon, Russ Freeman, Leroy Vinnegar and Shelly Manne. *Modern Art*, which features Freeman, Ben Tucker and Chuck Flores, includes two bonus tracks. Carl Perkins, Tucker and Flores are on the extended *Art Of Pepper* date, originally issued only on reel-to-reel tape, which includes three alternate takes.

Also in the set are five tunes from a Joe Morello session, on which Pepper makes one of his earliest appearances on tenor, and a Bill Perkins date featuring Pepper made during the same time frame for Pacific Jazz.

For each of these exceptional sessions, we have returned to the original master tapes and remastered them in 24-bit with greatly improved results from all previous issues.

Track Listing & Discography

DISC ONE:

1. Pepper Returns (A)	4:26	(Art Pepper)
2. Broadway (A)	4:56	(Bird-McRae-Woode)
3. You Go To My Head (A)	4:15	(J.F. Coots-H. Gillespie)
4. Angel Wings (A)	4:40	(Art Pepper)
5. Funny Blues (A)	4:36	(Art Pepper)
6. Five More (A)	4:37	(Art Pepper)
7. Minority (A)	4:17	(Art Pepper)
8. Patricia (A)	3:33	(Art Pepper)
9. Mambo De La Pinta (A)	4:14	(Art Pepper)
10. Walkin' Out Blues (A)	5:52	(Art Pepper)
11. Straight Life (B)	3:19	(Art Pepper)
12. Yardbird Suite (B)	5:43	(Charlie Parker)
13. Pepper Steak (B)	3:48	(Art Pepper)
14. You're Driving Me Crazy (B)	5:06	(Walter Donaldson)
15. Tenor Blooz (B)	4:59	(Art Pepper)

DISC TWO:

1. Blues In (C1)	6:00	(Art Pepper)
2. Bewitched, Bothered And Bewildered (C1)	4:25	(R.Rodgers-L.Hart)
3. Stompin' At The Savoy (C1)	5:04	(Razaf-Goodman-Sampson-Webb)
4. What Is This Thing Called Love (C1)	6:03	(Cole Porter)
5. Blues Out (C1)	4:45	(Art Pepper)
6. Diane's Dilemma (C2)	3:47	(Art Pepper)
7. When You're Smiling (C2)	4:50	(Fisher-Goodwin-Shay)
8. Cool Bunny (C2)	4:12	(Art Pepper)
9. Summertime (C2)	7:17	(Gershwin-Heyward-Gershwin)
10. Diane's Dilemma (alt. take) (C2)	4:54	(Art Pepper)
11. What Is This Thing Called Love (D)	5:29	(Cole Porter)
12. A Foggy Day (D)	3:53	(G. Gershwin-I. Gershwin)
13. Diane-A-Flow (D)	4:02	(Art Pepper)
14. Zenobia (D)	5:14	(Art Pepper)
15. Angel Eyes (D)	3:38	(M. Dennis-E.K. Brent)

DISC THREE

1. Holiday Flight (E)	5:08	(Art Pepper)
2. Too Close For Comfort (E)	6:08	(Bock-Holoscener-Weiss)
3. Long Ago And Far Away (E)	4:07	(J.Kern-I.Gershwin)
4. Begin The Beguine (E)	7:20	(Cole Porter)
5. I Can't Believe That You're In Love With Me (E)	5:37	(J. McHugh-C. Gaskill)

6. Summertime (E)	6:30	(Gershwin-Heyward-Gershwin)
7. Fascinatin' Rhythm (E)	4:23	(G. Gershwin-I. Gershwin)
8. Body And Soul (E)	4:20	(Green-Heyman-Sour-Eyton)
9. Without A Song (E)	7:37	(Youmans-Rose-Eliscu)
10. The Breeze And I (E)	3:30	(Ernesto Lecuona)
11. Surf Ride (E)	4:42	(Art Pepper)
12. Webb City (E)	4:54	(Bud Powell)
13. Begin The Beguine (alternate take) (E)	6:15	(Cole Porter)
14. Fascinatin' Rhythm (alternate take) (E)	3:59	(G. Gershwin-I. Gershwin)
15. Webb City (alternate take) (E)	4:33	(Bud Powell)

(A) Art Pepper, alto sax; Jack Sheldon, trumpet; Russ Freeman, piano, Leroy Vinnegar, bass; Shelly Manne, drums.

Recorded at Capitol Studios, Los Angeles on August 1956.

Recording engineer; John Kraus

Originally issued on THE RETURN OF ART PEPPER (Jazz West JWLP-10).

(B) Art Pepper, alto sax, tenor sax; Red Norvo, vibes; Gerald Wiggins, piano; Ben Tucker, bass; Joe Morello, drums.

Recorded at Western Recorders, Los Angeles on January 3, 1957.

Recording engineer: Don Blake.

Originally issued on COLLECTIONS - JOE MORELLO (Intro ILP-608).

(C) Art Pepper, alto sax; Russ Freeman, piano; Ben Tucker, bass; Chuck Flores, drums.

C1 recorded at Radio Recorders, Los Angeles on December 28, 1956.

Recording engineer: Thomas Nogar.

C2 recorded at Master Recorder, Los Angeles on January 14, 1957.

Recording engineer: Bunny Robine.

#1-8 Originally issued on MODERN ART (Intro ILP-606).

#9 & 10 originally issued on the CD version of MODERN ART (Blue Note B2-46868).

(D) Art Pepper, alto sax; Bill Perkins, tenor sax; Jimmy Rowles, piano; Ben Tucker, bass; Mel Lewis, drums.

Recorded at the Radio Annex Studio in Los Angeles on December 11, 1956.

"Angel Eyes", which does not include Pepper, originally issued on SOLO FLIGHT (Pacific Jazz JWC 505).

All others originally issued on JUST FRIENDS - BILL PERKINS Pacific Jazz PJM 401.

(E) Art Pepper, alto sax; Carl Perkins, piano; Ben Tucker, bass; Chuck Flores, drums.

Recorded at Audio Arts, Los Angeles on April 1, 1957.

The alternate takes were originally issued on THE ART OF THE ART Nadja (Japan) PA-3140/41.
All others originally issued on THE ART OF PEPPER (Omega reel-to-reel tapes OMT 7020 & ST-2030).

Original sessions produced by Herbert Kimmel (A), Don Clark (B, C, probably E), Richard Bock (D).
Session E is stereo. All others are mono.

Note: The periodic cymbal distortion on session E is in the original tapes, as is the flutter at 1:56 of "Holiday Flight", the drop-out at 5:06 of "Begin The Beguine" and the muffled audio at 3:48 on "Surf City".

Produced for release by Michael Cuscuna Transferred in 24-bit by Ron McMaster.

Mastered by Ron McMaster & Kurt Lundvall.

Masters appear courtesy of Blue Note Records, a division of Capitol Records, Inc.

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