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THE QUINTET - THE TRIO

MASSEY HALL, TORONTO, MAY 15TH 1953

The Quintet

- 1 Perdido (8:10) Tzai - Lengfelder - Drake
- 2 Salt Peanuts (7:37) Gillespie - Clarke
- 3 All The Things You Are (7:53) Hammerstein - Kern
- 4 Wee (Allen's Alley) (6:51) Best
- 5 Hot House (6:13) Hammer
- 6 A Night In Tunisia (7:33) Gillespie - Paparelli

Max Roach

- 7 Drum Conversation (4:34) Roach

THE QUINTET

Charlie Parker - Alto Saxophone, vocals
Dizzy Gillespie - Trumpet, vocals
Bud Powell, piano
Charles Mingus, double bass
Max Roach, drums

THE TRIO

Bud Powell, piano
Charles Mingus, double bass
Max Roach, drums

Recorded at Massey Hall, Toronto, 15 May 1953

Restoration and XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, January 2008

Cover artwork based on a photograph of Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie, c.1949

Total duration: 76:46 ©2008 Pristine Audio.

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The Quintet The Trio

Charlie Parker,
Dizzy Gillespie,
Bud Powell,
Charles Mingus,
Max Roach
Massey Hall, Toronto
15th May, 1953



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THE QUINTET - THE TRIO

Notes on the original release:

Jazz at Massey Hall is a jazz album featuring a live performance by "The Quintet" on 15 May 1953 at Massey Hall in Toronto. The musicians were five of the biggest names in jazz: Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Bud Powell, Charles Mingus, and Max Roach. It was the only time that the five recorded together as a unit, and it was the last recorded meeting of Parker and Gillespie. Parker famously played a plastic alto saxophone on this date; he could not be listed on the original album cover for contractual reasons, so was billed as "Charlie Chan" (an allusion to the fictional detective and to Parker's wife Chan). The record was originally issued on Mingus's label Debut, from a recording made by the Toronto New Jazz Society. Mingus took the recording to New York where he and Max Roach dubbed in the bass lines which were missing from most of the tunes and exchanged Mingus soloing on "All the Things You Are." Gillespie was billed first, as can be seen in the copy of the advertisement in Mark Miller's "Cool Blues."

The original plan was for the Jazz Society and the musicians to share the profits from the recording. However the audience was so small that the Society was unable to pay the musician's fees. The musicians were all given NSF checks, and only Parker was able to actually cash his. Mingus and Max published on by their Debut Label.

To this day, the concert is considered by many to be "the greatest ever."

Jazz at Massey Hall was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1995.

Notes from Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jazz_at_Massey_Hall

Additional notes on this issue

In assembling this release I've tried to bring together all of the available tracks of this historic concert, which has resulted, in the case of the Trio section, in some variation in sound quality. On this recording you will hear only the original recordings, with the bass part as originally played and restored to something closer to an appropriate level by the XR remastering process.

One may ask as to why this concert needs another release? My answer is that, for such a historic recording, all of the previous issues have failed to convey, through their sonic flaws, the full impact of the playing and overall sound. That five men, who'd never rehearsed together or played together as a group, could arrive at a two-thirds-empty hall, missing a saxophone (so playing a plastic one bought that day), half drunk (and more drunk after the interval) with one member on release from a psychiatric hospital, with the two lead players apparently not speaking to each other and conjure up such magic, is incredible. To finally hear it in this quality of sound more than justifies the hours of painstaking work it's taken me to bring this project to fruition. Despite owning copies of this recording for many years, I've heard it anew over the last few weeks, and since its completion it has rarely left my CD player. I hope you'll find similar inspiration from it!

Andrew Rose, France, 2008

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