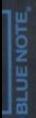


JAZZ REFERENCES

THE FINEST IN JAZZ SINCE 1939



SARAH VAUGHAN/LESTER YOUNG

ONE NIGHT STAND
THE TOWN HALL CONCERT 1947

THE performance SERIES

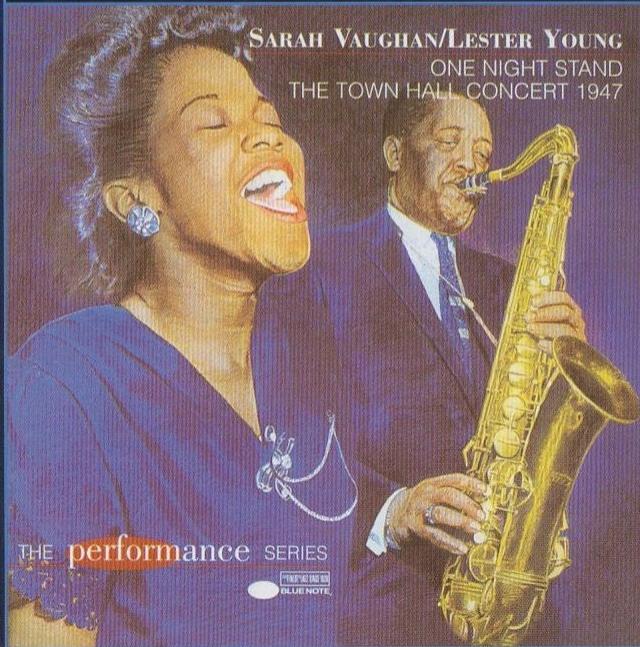


SARAH VAUGHAN & LESTER YOUNG ONE NIGHT STAND



LESTER YOUNG, tenor sax • SHORTY McCONNELL, trumpet • SADIK HAKIM, piano • FREDDIE LACEY, guitar • RODNEY RICHARDSON, bass
ROY HAYNES, drums.

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SARAH VAUGHAN & LESTER YOUNG ONE NIGHT STAND

When Lester Young returned to civilian life in late 1945, he began, slowly, to achieve the stardom that seemed to be his birthright ever since he burst onto the scene with Count Basie nearly ten years earlier. It was Norman Granz who paid his plane fare to Los Angeles. It was Norman Granz who became his manager and produced at least the first two of Lester's Aladdin record dates. And it was Norman Granz who chose Lester to star in his JATP concerts of early 1946. It was those concerts which set the stage for the first national tour of the U.S. by Jazz At The Philharmonic in the spring of that year.

Despite the fact that Norman Granz had provided Lester with a record deal and starred him in successful concerts, all was not smooth. Before the end of 1946, Lester had moved back to New York and had discharged Granz as his manager. Charlie Carpenter would be Lester's manager until the very end. It would be several years before Lester returned to Granz and then it was only as a recording artist.

(As a personal manager, concert promoter

and record label, Norman Granz was a virtual definition of conflict of interest. Whether or not a different manager might have struck a more lucrative deal for Oscar Peterson or Ella Fitzgerald for records or concert appearances is something we will never know. It should be noted that neither Miss Fitzgerald nor Peterson ever voiced dissatisfaction with the relationship. Anita O'Day, who recorded for Granz for many years, did complain that she had never been invited on a JATP tour.)

Upon returning to New York, Lester put together a sextet. He would have six pieces for the rest of the decade with trombonist Jerry Elliott replacing guitarist Freddie Lacey in 1948. This band was booked by the Gale Agency, run by Moe and Tim Gale, one of the most successful booking operations of its time. Lester worked the circuit; the Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago jazz clubs as well as spots in New York, both uptown and downtown, to great acclaim. There is no question about it, Lester Young was a star. He could work as long as nine consecutive weeks at Birdland. He made a very good living.

[This is a truth that seems obvious yet the European/leftist version views things quite differently. They would have you believe that from the moment Lester departed the Army he began a downward spiral into a dependence on marijuana and liquor. Unable to create because the forces of racism/capitalism were out to destroy him, he would be forced to stand by while his white imitators took center stage. This would lead to a final collapse of his health and an early death probably from chronic alcoholism but possibly from the effects of venereal disease. While there is something to this, the dissipation was more a result of the last five years of his life. The years 1946-1954 contained many marvelous moments.]

Because he was not under Granz' wing, Lester was able to participate in the concert series of rival promoters. In the 50s he was a regular on the Birdland tours and in some years worked both Birdland and JATP! The music we hear him perform here was recorded at Town Hall in New York for a series dubbed One Night Stand. The series alternated between Carnegie Hall and Town Hall. On this occasion, the format found Max Kaminsky opening the show, followed by Lester and then Sarah who brought Lester back for the finale, "I Cried For You." Lester is in top form on such longtime favorites as "Lester Leaps In" and "Just You, Just Me" or any of the other titles

all of which were recent Aladdin recordings. But listen also to his easy rapport with the audience and the joyous delight as he scats along with the introductions.

Sarah is in equally fine form. While her set is mostly ballads she does include "Mean To Me," well known in her version for Continental records which included Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie. Her youthful exuberance is on full display and her flights of harmonic fancy never more in evidence. When Albert Marx, who signed her to Musicraft records, first heard Sarah, she was singing and playing intermission piano at the Onyx Club on 52nd Street. He told this writer he had never heard a better singer and never expected to hear a better one in the future. He recorded her for more than two years and her Musicraft recordings still stand out in a recording career studed with highlights.

When Sarah brings Lester back for the finale, we hear a meeting of great talents that only happened this one time. While there was an arrangement of it in the early Basie band book and Lester played behind Billie Holiday on "I Cried For You" at a 1946 JATP concert, there was, until this time, no Lester Young solo on the song. But listen to what we have here with Sarah voicing her enthusiasm and Lester responding with a sterling effort. They didn't

call him The President for nothing! The era of jazz concerts in New York was less than a decade old when this evening took place. The Goodman concerts of 1938 and 1939 had been followed by annual visits of Duke Ellington, beginning in 1943, and the many concerts of Eddie Condon. When Jazz At The Philharmonic arrived in the Spring of 1946, the audience was waiting. The 1947 edition of JATP had roared through Carnegie Hall with its famous Perdido concert in September and, two nights later, Ella Fitzgerald had made the first of forty-four consecutive appearances at Carnegie on a show with Dizzy Gillespie's big band and Charlie Parker. And now this concert of Lester Young and Sarah Vaughan comes to disc, almost fifty years from the time it was recorded.

The series was well titled in that it was truly a One Night Stand. Yet this particular event was surely one for the ages.

BOB PORTER - 1996

Quand Lester Young revint à la vie civile fin 1945, il se mit progressivement à connaître le succès qui semblait être son dû depuis qu'il avait explosé sur scène aux côtés Count Basie dix ans auparavant. C'est Norman Granz qui lui offrit son billet d'avion pour Los Angeles. C'est Norman Granz qui devint son manager et qui produisit au moins ses deux premières sessions d'enregistrements Aladdin. Et ce fut encore Norman Granz qui demanda à Lester de participer début 1946 à une série de concert intitulée "Jazz At The Philharmonic" (Jazz au Philharmonique, JATP). Au printemps de cette même année, JATP entama sa première tournée des Etats-Unis.

Bien que Lester ait pu apparaître dans une production célèbre et signer un contrat d'enregistrement grâce à Norman Granz, tout n'était pas rose entre eux. Avant la fin 1946, Lester était revenu à New York et avait décidé de changer de manager. C'est Charlie Carpenter qui devint le manager de Lester et le resta jusqu'à la fin. Il se passerait plusieurs années avant que Lester ne retourne vers Granz, et ce ne fut jamais que pour des occasions bien marquées.

[En tant qu'impresario, tourneur et directeur de label, Norman Granz était une définition vivante du conflit d'intérêt. Nous ne saurons jamais si un autre manager aurait pu ou non

fournir des contrats plus lucratifs à Oscar Peterson ou Ella Fitzgerald pour leurs disques et leurs concerts. Mais il faut noter que ni Miss Fitzgerald ni Peterson n'ont jamais mentionné la moindre insatisfaction quant à leur relation avec Granz. Anita O'Day, qui a enregistré avec Granz pendant de nombreuses années, s'était pour sa part plainte de ne jamais avoir été invitée à participer à une tournée JATP.)

De retour à New York, Lester constitua un sextette. Il devait garder ce format la décennie durant, avec pour seul changement le remplacement du guitariste Freddie Lacey par le tromboniste Jerry Elliott en 1948. Ce groupe fut signé par la Gale Agency, dirigée par Moe et Tim Gale, un des tourneurs les plus en vue de son temps. Lester fit le circuit classique - les clubs de jazz de Boston, Philadelphie, Cleveland, Détroit et Chicago - ainsi que certaines salles de New York, uptown et downtown, avec beaucoup de succès. Sans aucun doute, Lester Young était une star. Il était même invité à jouer aussi longtemps que neuf semaines d'affilée au Birdland. Il gagnait très bien sa vie.

[C'est une vérité qui semble évidente, et pourtant la version européenne/gauchiste est assez différente. Elle voudrait faire croire qu'à partir du moment où Lester quitta l'armée, il

s'était engagé dans un cercle vicieux de dépendance à la marijuana et à l'alcool. Incapable de créer à cause de l'acharnement des forces du racisme/capitalisme, il resta en stand-by tandis que ses imitateurs occupaient le centre de la scène. Ceci aurait provoqué un effondrement final de sa santé et une mort pré-maturée sans doute due à un alcoolisme chronique ou peut-être aux conséquences de maladies vénériennes. Bien qu'il y ait là un semblant de vérité, cette vie dissipée fut plus la marque des cinq dernières années de sa vie. La période 1946-1954 contenait beaucoup de moments merveilleux.]

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Parce qu'il n'était pas lié à Granz, Lester put participer librement aux séries de concerts de tourneurs rivaux. Dans les années 1950, il apparaissait régulièrement dans les tournées du Birdland et même certaines années, à la fois sur ceux du Birdland et ceux du JATP! La musique que nous l'entendons jouer ici fut enregistrée au Town Hall de New York au cours d'une série de concerts intitulée One Night Stand (Affaire d'une Nuit), qui alternait entre le Carnegie Hall et Town Hall. Chaque représentation commençait par Max Kaminsky, suivit de Lester, et enfin de Sarah qui appelait Lester pour un final "I Cried For You" final. Lester est ici dans sa meilleure forme, interprétant de vieux classiques comme "Lester Leaps In", "Just You, Just Me"

et tout ces autres titres qui viennent d'être enregistrés par Aladdin. Ecoutez la relation qu'il crée avec le public et ce plaisir joyeux qu'il a à "scatter" les introductions.

Sarah est dans une forme comparable. Bien que son set soit essentiellement constitué de ballades, elle chante également "Mean To Me," bien connue dans sa version Continental Records avec Charlie Parker et Dizzy Gillespie. Son exubérance juvénile est totalement présente et ses arabesques harmoniques plus en évidence que jamais. Quand Albert Max - qui l'avait signée sur Musicraft records - avait entendu Sarah pour la première fois, elle chantait et jouait du piano durant l'entracte à l'Onyx Club sur la 52ème rue. Il m'avait alors dit qu'il n'avait jamais entendu meilleure chanteuse et ne s'attendait pas à en entendre de meilleure à l'avenir. Il l'a produite pendant plus de deux ans, et les enregistrements Musicraft sortent encore d'un lot caractérisé par sa grande qualité.

Quand Sarah rappelle Lester pour le final, nous assistons à une rencontre de titans qui eu lieu cette unique fois-là. Bien qu'un arrangement de "I Cried For You" existe sur de vieilles bandes de Basie et que Lester l'ait joué dernière Billie Holiday durant un concert JATP de 1946, Lester Young n'avait jusqu'alors jamais fait de solo sur ce titre. Ecoutez donc

Sarah donner corps à son enthousiasme et Lester répondre si brillamment; on ne le surnomma pas "The President" pour rien!

Quand cette soirée eu lieu, l'époque des concerts de jazz à New York datait à peine d'une dizaine d'années. Les concerts Goodman de 1938 et 1939 avait été suivis de visites annuelles de Duke Ellington (à partir de 1943) et de nombreux concerts d'Eddie Condon. Quand "Jazz At The Philharmonic" vit le jour au printemps 1946, le public était prêt. La version 1947 de JATP avait pris d'assaut le Carnegie Hall avec son célèbre concert "Perdido" de septembre, tandis que deux soirées plus tard Ella Fitzgerald y avait fait le premier de quarante-quatre concerts successifs avec le big band de Dizzy Gillespie et Charlie Parker. Aujourd'hui, ce concert de Lester Young et Sarah Vaughan existe enfin en disque, près de cinquante ans après avoir été enregistré.

Cette série est bien nommée, car les circonstances voulurent que ce soir-là fût bel et bien l'Affaire d'une Nuit. Pourtant, l'ampleur de cet événement en fait sans aucun doute l'Affaire d'une Vie.

BOB PORTER - 1996

Personnel, LESTER YOUNG SEXTET (1-4 and 9-11) • LESTER YOUNG, tenor sax • SHORTY McCONNELL, trumpet • SADIK HAKIM, piano • FREDDIE LACEY, guitar • RODNEY RICHARDSON, bass • ROY HAYNES, drums • Recorded at TOWN HALL, New York City on November 8, 1947

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|---|--------------------------------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | LESTER LEAPS IN
(Lester Young) 3:08 | 9 | LESTER'S BEBOP BOOGIE
(Lester Young) 4:53 |
| 2 | JUST YOU, JUST ME
(Greer-Klages) 5:17 | 10 | THESE FOOLISH THINGS
(Morrell-Strachey-Link) 4:55 |
| 3 | JUMPIN' WITH SYMPHONY SID
(Lester Young) 3:50 | 11 | MOVIN' WITH LESTER
(Lester Young) 5:48 |
| 4 | SUNDAY
(Miller-Kreuger-Conn-Styne) 6:18 | 12 | THE MAN I LOVE
(Gershwin-Gershwin) 3:31 |
| 5 | DON'T BLAME ME
(McHugh-Fields) 3:45 | 13 | TIME AFTER TIME
(Styne-Cahn) 2:54 |
| 6 | MY KINDA LOVE
(Alter-Trent) 1:48 | 14 | MEAN TO ME
(Ahler-Turk) 2:40 |
| 7 | I COVER THE WATERFRONT
(Green-Heyman) 3:35 | 15 | BODY AND SOUL
(Green-Heyman
Sauer-Eyton) 4:05 |
| 8 | A GHOST OF A CHANCE
(Young-Washington-Crosby) 3:53 | 16 | I CRIED FOR YOU
(Arnheim-Lyman-Freed) 3:46 |

Disc-to-tape transfers: JACK TOWERS
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S.VAUGHAN & L. YOUNG
ONE NIGHT STAND

LESTER LEAPS IN 1
JUST YOU, JUST ME 2
JUMPIN' WITH 3
SYMPHONY SID
SUNDAY 4
DON'T BLAME ME 5
MY KINDA LOVE 6
I COVER THE WATERFRONT 7
A GOST OF A CHANCE 8
LESTER'S BEBOP BOOGIE 9
THESE FOOLISH THINGS 10
MOVIN' WHITH LESTER 11
THE MAN I LOVE 12
TIME AFTER TIME 13
MEAN TO ME 14
BODY AND SOUL 15
I CRIED FOR YOU 16

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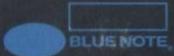
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