

John Coltrane

Coltrane

The Classic Quartet - Complete Impulse! Studio Recordings

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Well, this is a controversial set. Received with a lot of enthusiasm upon the initial release, the opinion is much more reserved nowadays. The controversy rests not so much on the musical quality, but on the claim to completeness. As a matter of fact, various alternate and out-takes did appear since 1998 and have been published on the newly remastered editions since then. I wouldn't put the blame on Verve/BMG/Impulse! though, because most of those forgotten recordings were only found by the Coltrane family after the production

of this set. The music making on Coltrane is outstanding throughout, revelatory at times and certainly mandatory listening for anybody serious about Jazz.

Below you can find some of the original cover art which is sadly absent in the booklet of the box. Most of the albums became instant classics, with "A Love Supreme" being probably one of the most important and influential Jazz album with Miles's Kind of Blue, Ornette's Free Jazz and Mingus's Black Saint and the Sinner Lady, imo.



Details:

Artist: John Coltrane
Title: Coltrane - The Classic Quartet - Complete Impulse! Studio Recordings
Label: Impulse!
Catalogue Number: IMPD8-280
Location: Van Gelder Studio, Englewood Cliffs, NJ
Producer: Bob Thiele/John Coltrane, Michael Cuscuna
Release: 1998
Total Time: 524:52

Performers:

John Coltrane (reeds), McCoy Tyner (piano), Art Davis*
Jimmy Garrison (bass), Elvin Jones, Roy Haynes** (drums)

Tracklist:

Disc: 1

1. Greensleeves
2. It's Easy to Remember
3. Inch Worm
4. Big Nick
5. Out of This World
6. Soul Eyes
7. Miles' Mode
8. Tunji
9. Nancy (With the Laughing Face)
10. What's New?
11. Up ,Gainst the Wall
12. Too Young to Go Steady
13. All or Nothing at All
14. I Wish I Knew

Disc: 2

1. You Don't Know What Love Is
2. Say It (Over and Over Again)
3. Vilia
4. After the Rain**
5. Dear Old Stockholm**
6. Your Lady
7. Alabama [Takes 4 & 5]
8. Lonnie's Lament
9. Drum Thing
10. Wise One

Disc: 3

1. Crescent
2. Bessie's Blues
3. Love Supreme, Pt. 1: Acknowledgement
4. Love Supreme, Pt. 2: Resolution

5. Love Supreme, Pt. 3: Pursuance
6. Love Supreme, Pt. 4: Psalm
7. Nature Boy [First Version]*
8. Nature Boy*
9. Feelin' Good*
10. Chim Chim Cheree

Disc: 4

1. Brazilia
2. Song of Praise
3. After the Crescent*
4. Dear Lord*
5. One Down, One Up*
6. Welcome
7. Last Blues

Disc: 5

1. Untitled Original 90314
2. Transition
3. Suite - Part I - Prayer and Meditation: Day, Part II - Peace and After, Part III - Prayer and Meditation: Evening, Part IV - Affirmation, Part V - Prayer and Meditation: 4 A.M.
4. Living Space
5. Dusk Dawn

Disc: 6

1. Vigil
2. Untitled Original 90320
3. Dearly Beloved
4. Attaining
5. Sun Ship
6. Ascent
7. Amen

Disc: 7

1. Love
2. Compassion
3. Joy
4. Consequences
5. Serenity
6. Joy [Second Version]

Disc: 8

1. Crescent [First Version]
2. Bessie's Blues [First Version, Incomplete]
3. Song of Praise [First Version]
4. Love Supreme, Pt. 2: Resolution [Alternate Take]
5. Feelin' Good [Alternate Take]*
6. Dear Lord [Breakdowns & Alternate Take]*
7. Living Space [Breakdown & Alternate Take]

Reviews:

Robert Spencer on allaboutjazz.com:

The Complete Impulse! Studio Recordings covers recordings made by John Coltrane's "classic quartet" from 1961 through 1965. The "classic quartet" usually denotes Coltrane, pianist McCoy Tyner, bassist Jimmy Garrison, and drummer Elvin Jones, and all the studio recordings by that ensemble are here. Also included are recordings made in 1963 and 1965 with Roy Haynes subbing for Jones, and one featuring bassist Art Davis added to the quartet.

These four years of recordings, filling eight discs, stand as Coltrane's most creative, searching period, although toward its beginning is a decidedly conservative note: the sessions that produced the spare and pretty Ballads album. Coltrane had come under considerable fire for the experimentalism and fire of his live Village Vanguard recordings, although he attributes the retreat to his inadvertent wrecking of his mouthpiece and his having to play with inadequate ones for some time after - ones that made his multiphonic flights impossible. Whatever the case, the chronological arrangement of this disc allows the listener to hear Coltrane progress ever farther in his quest for new musical expressions and deeper honesty in his communication. (Fans of the old albums will applaud the liner notes' helpful track listings for each original album, making programming easy.) By the time one reaches the recordings that made up First Meditations and spelled the turbulent end of the classic quartet, many worlds have been spanned since Ballads. And much beautiful and inspiring music has been made.

The eighth disc is made up of never before released outtakes of monumental compositions including "Crescent," "Bessie's Blues," and the second movement of A Love Supreme, "Resolution." While none of these outtakes differ markedly from the released versions, every Coltrane fan will be thrilled to hear

them: after all these years, it's the next best thing to hearing Coltrane play again today, saying something new. The brief take of "Song of Praise," with its resonant sonorities, is especially moving.

This box also marks the first 20-bit remastering of the under-rated jewel First Meditations and the material collected on the disc called Dear Old Stockholm. As with the earlier 20-bit reissues of the other separate albums, the sonic difference is marked, and should make even those who are deeply familiar with this music take another listen.

There are so many highlights, it's impossible to name them all! But these eight discs are remarkable for the breadth of Coltrane's musical vision - and not just in the difference between the first recordings and the last. I've said that Ballads to First Meditations is a big jump, and it is; but the picture isn't quite that simple. In the middle of disc one are the sessions for the Coltrane album (not to be confused with the Prestige album of the same name). Right after recording the scorching, fourteen-minute "Out of This World," Coltrane laid down his celebrated, tender take of Mal Waldron's "Soul Eyes." Shortly thereafter, in another session for Ballads, Coltrane spun out his brief but furious "Up ,Gainst the Wall."

That pattern continues. Much later, in a 1965 session served up on disc four, Coltrane turned from the searching intensity of "After the Crescent" to the open-faced beauty of "Dear Lord." There were so many sides to John Coltrane's music that these kind of brilliant contradictions can be found all through this set, and we are all the richer for it. The Complete Impulse! Studio Recordings is a lovingly collected monument to some of the greatest music anyone has ever made.

Everything according to the latest rules, files tagged:

Additional command line options : -8 -V -T „artist=%a” -T „title=%t” -T „album=%g” -T „date=%y” -T „tracknumber=%n” -T „genre=%m” -T „comment=Impulse! IMPD8-280” %s

CD5/Track3 has been renamed in order to prevent problems.

CDs 7 & 8 without „Overread into Lead-In and Lead-Out”

More to come:

Art Blakey - Complete Blue Note Recordings of Art Blakey's 1960s Jazz Messengers [Mosaic Ltd.-Edition]
Joe Henderson - So Near, So Far - The Music of Miles Davis (Verve)
Tina Brooks - True Blue (Blue Note - Rudy Van Gelder Edition)
Ludwig van Beethoven - Complete String Quartets - Juilliard String Quartet
McCoy Tyner - The Real McCoy (Blue Note - Rudy Van Gelder Edition)
Joe Henderson - Inner Urge (Blue Note - Rudy Van Gelder Edition)
Miles Davis - The Complete Live At the Plugged Nickel 1965 (8 CD)
Sonny Clark - Dial S for Sonny (Blue Note Rudy Van Gelder Edition)
Charlie Parker - The Complete Verve Master Takes
Johann Sebastian Bach - Die Kunst der Fuge (Grigory Sokolov)
Sonny Rollins - Live at the Village Vanguard (Blue Note - Rudy Van Gelder Edition)
Bela Bartok - The String Quartets (Vegh Quartet)
Robert Schumann - Symphonies etc. (Gardiner, OGG - DG Archiv)
Eric Dolphy - Complete Prestige Recordings (9-CD set)

Feel free to comment on those and to pm me about Jazz or Classical Music

ENJOY!