

= Coltrane for Lovers =

Coltrane for Lovers is a posthumous compilation album by American jazz musician John Coltrane , released on January 23 , 2001 , by Impulse ! Records . Its tracks were recorded during December 1961 to April 1963 at engineer Rudy Van Gelder 's recording studio in Englewood Cliffs , New Jersey . The first in the Verve for Lovers series by Verve Records , the album contains eleven of Coltrane 's romantic ballads recorded during his early years with Impulse ! Records . The songs feature Coltrane 's classic quartet and collaborations with vocalist Johnny Hartman and pianist Duke Ellington .

The recordings compiled for Coltrane for Lovers initially received criticism for Coltrane 's stylistic move from complex jazz compositions of the free jazz form to a simplistic formula of ballads and blues . Following the initial controversy , the album 's recordings gained a legacy as one of Coltrane 's most popular recordings and significant in the genre of romantic jazz . The tracks were compiled by producer Richard Seidel and remastering engineer was Allan Tucker at Foothill Digital , New York City .

Coltrane for Lovers was issued 33 years after Coltrane 's death and nearly 40 years after the original recording dates . The album peaked at number 5 on the Top Jazz Albums chart and received generally positive reviews from most music critics , despite some criticism from writers who viewed it as a cash @-@ in compilation from the release 's label . The album was later compiled , along with other For Lovers titles , onto the box set The Complete Verve for Lovers Collection .

= = Background and recording = =

Shortly before completing his contract with Atlantic in May 1961 , John Coltrane joined the newly formed Impulse ! label , with whom the " Classic Quartet " would record . It is generally assumed that the clinching reason Coltrane signed with Impulse ! was that it would enable him to work again with recording engineer Rudy Van Gelder , who had taped his Prestige sessions , as well as Blue Train . It was at Van Gelder 's new studio in Englewood Cliffs , New Jersey that Coltrane would record most of his records for the label .

During this period of Coltrane 's recording career , critics and fans were fiercely divided in their estimation of Coltrane , who had radically altered his style from bebop to the modal and free jazz styles , as featured on Coltrane ( 1962 ) , his first studio project for the Impulse ! label . John Tynan of Down Beat magazine went so far as to call his playing " anti @-@ jazz . " In the midst of this controversy , Coltrane decided to release his next three albums in order to improve the critical perception of himself . In an interview with music journalist Gene Lees , Coltrane was asked of his musical and stylistic change from modal and free jazz to more simplistic forms and standards . He responded by stating " Variety " .

John Coltrane 's primary record producer , Bob Thiele , who had worked with Coltrane on his previous albums Live ! at the Village Vanguard ( 1961 ) and Coltrane ( 1962 ) , acknowledged that the next three Coltrane albums to be released were to be recorded at his behest and as ballad @-@ themed to quiet the negative criticism of Coltrane 's more diverse playing . The material chosen for Coltrane 's next records would be suited for more slow @-@ tempo , smooth and romantic playing , in contrast to Coltrane 's forceful , aggressive style that had dominated his previously issued recordings , and which had led to reviewers describing his playing as " angry " . The recordings featured on Coltrane for Lovers were recorded between December 1961 and April 1963 , during his early years with Impulse ! Records .

= = Composition = =

As Bob Thiele intended , the next of Coltrane 's releases featured the hard bop form of playing , incorporating influences from rhythm and blues , gospel music , and the blues , especially with the saxophone and piano , and straght @-@ ahead ballads and standards . Ballads , recorded in late 1961 and 1962 , was at first criticized as predictable and too simple after the aggressiveness

Coltrane displayed on his previous recordings , but was later reevaluated favorably , by some as a masterpiece . On Duke Ellington and John Coltrane , Ellington " sat in " with the John Coltrane Quartet for a set dominated by the pianist 's songs . Some performances had Ellington 's usual sidemen , bassist Aaron Bell and drummer Sam Woodyard , replacing Jimmy Garrison and Elvin Jones in the group .

Recording for the collaboration LP John Coltrane and Johnny Hartman ( 1963 ) found the " classic quartet " backing up singer Hartman on ballad standards . Rolling Stone magazine later described the album as " ... one of Coltrane 's least innovative records , but impeccably dignified and elegant " , and music critic Richard S. Ginell commented by saying that " Coltrane 's eloquence and the warm , masculine baritone of Hartman can still break your heart . " Renowned writer and poet Al Young wrote of the album 's most well @-@ known recording , " My One and Only Love " , and interpretation of the song by Coltrane and Hartman :

Shortly after the release of his ballad @-@ oriented albums , Coltrane returned to a more experimental phase , recording Impressions ( 1963 ) and his magnum opus A Love Supreme ( 1965 ) . In spite of this , the previous serious of ballad @-@ oriented recordings served in helping increase Coltrane 's legacy and influence on romantic jazz .

= = Release = =

Compiling eleven of the recordings from this period seen best fit for a romance @-@ themed compilation , Coltrane for Lovers was issued in the United States by the Verve Music Group on January 23 , 2001 . Thirty @-@ three years after Coltrane 's death and nearly 40 years after the original recording dates , the album entered the Top Jazz Albums chart on February 10 , 2001 and peaked at number 5 . It remained on the chart for 83 weeks , until February 1 , 2003 , nearly two years after entering the chart .

The album served as the first of several other For Lovers compilations that the Verve label would later issue , including recordings by Sarah Vaughan , Chet Baker , and Charlie Parker . A similar compilation , entitled Plays for Lovers , was released by Prestige in 2003 . Another Verve compilation of Coltrane ballads , entitled More Coltrane for Lovers , followed in 2005 . Coltrane for Lovers was later compiled , along with other For Lovers titles , onto the box set The Complete Verve for Lovers Collection , released exclusively on Amazon.com on November 14 , 2006 .

= = Critical reception = =

In a four @-@ star review , Allmusic editor Alex Henderson called Coltrane for Lovers " an excellent collection that has no problem reminding us just how warm and expressive his ballad playing could be . " After discussing how Coltrane 's ballad @-@ playing has been undervalued in comparison to his more experimental recordings , in a December 21 , 2001 article for The New York Times , writer Ben Ratliff wrote that " This collection ... presents all the argument you need . " Some , however , have criticized the album and Verve negatively for repackaging Coltrane material for an unnecessary cash @-@ in compilation . In The Penguin Guide to Jazz on CD , Richard Cook and Brian Morton gave the album one out of four stars and commented , " Oh , for goodness ' sake ! We 're tempted to tell you that this contains a previously unreleased rehearsal of Ascension , which we have long regarded as excellent make @-@ out music , but it does not . Needless to say , the music is fine ... It 's the concept we have problems with . Avoid . "

In a 2007 interview for Esquire magazine , author and Coltrane biographer Ben Ratliff praised Coltrane 's music and balladry , stating " His work contains most of the well @-@ known ideals of jazz ... If you 're interested in improvisation , this guy pushed improvisation to the wall . He was the best blues player of his time . He wrote and played incredible ballads . Record companies are still putting out compilations of Coltrane ballads called Coltrane for Lovers or whatever . You can poke fun at the idea , but if you ever listen to one , they 're indescribably beautiful . " The recordings compiled for Coltrane for Lovers have endured a legacy as one of Coltrane 's best performing and interpreting of ballads and standards . In a September 2000 essay on the recordings , writer Al

Young elaborated on John Coltrane 's ability during the period of recording the compiled jazz ballads , writing that " The rapport between performer and audience smooths and deepens when a player of John Coltrane 's caliber breathes personal expression into some aspect of a song 's lyric or meaning . " Young continued in his review of the album , stating :

= = Track listing = =

All tracks have John Coltrane playing tenor saxophone .

Track sources

a originally from Coltrane ( 1962 )

b originally from Duke Ellington and John Coltrane ( 1962 )

c originally from Ballads ( 1962 )

d originally from John Coltrane and Johnny Hartman ( 1963 )

e originally from Impressions ( 1963 )

= = Chart history = =

Billboard Music Charts ( North America ) ? Coltrane for Lovers

2001 : Top Jazz Albums ? # 5 ( 83 weeks )

= = Personnel = =

= = = Musicians = = =

= = = Production = = =