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DAVE BRUBECK QUARTET

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR OF THE UK

Someday My Prince Will Come; The Time Of Our Madness; Oh You Can Run (But You Can't Hide); In A Shanty In Old Shanty Town; I Got Rhythm; Deep Purple; All Of Me; The Salmon Strikes; Goodbye Old Friend (70.55)

Bobby Militello (as); Dave Brubeck (p); Alec Dankworth (b); Randy Jones d). Various UK locations.

Recorded - November 10, 11 and 12, 1998 (Telarc DSD CD-83440)

This live recording celebrates the 40th anniversary of the first UK tour by the Dave Brubeck Quartet in 1958. Columbia recorded the group's performance that year in Copenhagen but nothing remains from the UK dates, although a very good bootleg tape of their Manchester concert has been circulating for years.

The repertoire features **Someday My Prince** from the 1957 album *Digs Disney*, with four new originals by the leader and a nostalgic but very welcome look at some numbers from the thirties - *Shanty*, *Rhythm*, *Deep Purple* and *All Of Me*. The brilliant Bobby Militello who has memorized many of Paul Desmond's recorded solos, (and *Someday* was surely one of Desmond's greatest), steers clear of Paul's delicate lyricism for a more intense reading. He makes his entry with a nursery rhyme-like motif and throughout a solo that builds logically in momentum, displays an amazing technique while all the time remaining true to the romantic mood of the piece. (Desmond was famous for his quotes and Militello likes them too, because we hear a little Chattanooga Choo Choo along the way.)

The sultry tango rhythm of **The Time Of Our Madness** clearly inspires him to indulge in some high Desmond-like harmonics which are in context and not just there for effect. This is one of Brubeck's loveliest melodies and his trademark block chords towards the end of his solo add considerably to the drama of the piece, which concludes with an unaccompanied coda from the amazing Mr. M.

You Can Run uses one of Brubeck's favorite devices, a simple but very effective slow blues. Alec Dankworth's big fat sound on bass soon has the group locked into a foot-tapping groove as Militello cuts loose and wails through seven inspired choruses, evoking at times the great Cannonball.

It is nice to hear **Shanty Town** taken slowly and in waltz time because I have happy memories of this old war-horse. I used to work with a pianist who needed the music for everything we played except *Shanty*, which he could play in every known key and a few unknown ones too.

Along with the blues, **I Got Rhythm** probably has the most popular changes in the canon and both soloists revel in its familiarity with Bobby hinting at St. Thomas and Dave climaxing with an exciting stride chorus.

Brubeck is at his most reflective on **Deep Purple** and a transcription of Bobby's melodic solo here (with a little bow to *Stranger In Paradise*) would fool many into thinking it was by Paul Desmond - the sound is what makes it Militello.

The leader taps into the inherent sadness of **All Of Me**, which he takes at a gentle stroll, a mood maintained by Militello's contribution who makes his entry like a latter day Johnny Hodges.

This stimulating CD, which is highly recommended, is a permanent reminder of something that will sadly not re-occur. In a recent Newsletter Dave Brubeck announced with regret, that due to age, he would not tour Europe again.

Gordon Jack