

CBS 84407

CBS



THE COSMIC SCENE

DUKE ELLINGTON'S

SPACEMEN

CLARK TERRY, TRUMPET
PAUL GONSALVES, TENOR SAX
JIMMY HAMILTON, CLARINET
SAM WOODYARD, DRUMS
JOHN SANDERS, TROMBONE
QUENTIN JACKSON, TROMBONE
BRITT WOODMAN, TROMBONE
JIMMY WOOD, BASS
DUKE ELLINGTON, PIANO

AVALON
BODY AND SOUL
BASS-MENT
EARLY AUTUMN
JONES
PERDIDO
ST. LOUIS BLUES
SPACEMEN
MIDNIGHT SUN
TAKE THE "A" TRAIN



PHOTO: ROBERT FAULKNER



THE COSMIC SCENE
DUKE ELLINGTON'S SPACEMEN

SIDE 1

CBS 84407

MONO



33 T.

A

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1 - AVALON
(Johnson - De Sylva - V. Rose)
Remick Music Corp. | 3'18 |
| 2 - BODY AND SOUL
(Sauter - Heyman - J.W. Green) Harms, Inc. | 4'54 |
| 3 - BASS-MENT
(D. Ellington) Tempo Music, Inc. | 2'33 |
| 4 - EARLY AUTUMN
(H. Burna - Horman) Mars Records, Inc. | 3'08 |
| 5 - JONES
(C. Terry - D. Ellington) Tempo Music, Inc. | 2'55 |

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SIDE 2

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MONO



33 T.

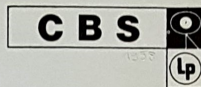
B

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1 - PERDIDO
(Dravo - Lengyel - Tuzel)
Tempo Music, Inc. | 2'47 |
| 2 - ST. LOUIS BLUES
(W.C. Handy) Handy Bros. Music Co., Inc. | 5'06 |
| 3 - SPACEMEN
(D. Ellington) Tempo Music, Inc. | 2'30 |
| 4 - MIDNIGHT SUN
(F. J. Burke - Hampton)
Crystal Music Publishers, Inc. | 3'55 |
| 5 - TAKE THE "A" TRAIN
(Strayhorn) Tempo Music, Inc. | 4'58 |

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THE COSMIC SCENE

DUKE ELLINGTON'S SPACEMEN



Avalon
 Body and Soul
 Bass-ment
 Early Autumn
 Jones

Perdido
 St. Louis Blues
 Spacemen
 Midnight Sun
 Take the "A" Train



Choosing a small group out of the Ellington Orchestra is difficult only because there are at least a half dozen to choose from. This time Duke picked eight of his all-stars to join him in a swinging session of standard jazz tunes and, as always, a few new things he just happened to have with him. After the rhythm section, Sam Woodyard, drums, Jimmy Wood, bass, and Edward K. Ellington, piano, he chose what is known around the bandstand as the "pep section," the three trombonists John Sanders, Britt Woodman, and Quentin "Butler" Jackson. And finally, as a trio of soloists all more or less matched in style and jazz conception, he included Jimmy Hamilton, clarinet, Paul Gonzales, tenor, and Clark Terry, trumpet.

As for why these nine should be called "Spacemen," historians of jazz will have to make up their own reasons. Duke used the word as the first American satellite settled in orbit, and, perhaps with plans to supply the jazz on trips to the moon, he is merely being practical about the size band that will fit into a rocket ship. Himself excluded, of course. For, unless his travel habits change, Duke Ellington will go to the moon by train.

Avalon—This is a Jimmy Hamilton arrangement of a standard that is ideally suited to this nine-man combo. With Clark Terry, Hamilton, and Paul Gonzales all playing fine jazz, the three trombones supply the swinging support all the way.

Body and Soul—This tenor-sax standard is naturally given to Paul Gonzales, whose fluid-drive style builds it into a new solo classic. The slow chorus is there. Then three flying choruses follow.

Bass-ment—This is a tune by Duke which the band has been playing for some time, although it took this record to earn it a title. It features the pep section, Duke in a tasteful piano solo, and Jimmy Wood.

Early Autumn—Ralph Burns' familiar song is again a Hamilton arrangement, and Jimmy solos on the first half-chorus. Terry and Gonzales follow, and a mellow ensemble concludes.

Jones—Named after a former band boy of Duke's, this original is by Clark Terry and Ellington, and it swings easily. Gonzales is featured with the bones.

Perdido—If over a tune characterized all jam sessions, this is it and it all began with Ellington. Jimmy Hamilton solos most of the way, again with the three trombones acting as launching pad.

St. Louis Blues—From one composer to another, Ellington treats the Handy song with respect, even to playing the first solo himself. After that, Terry, Gonzales, and Hamilton alternate choruses for a long and delightful performance.

Spacemen—Duke wrote this one for Clark Terry, the trumpeter "beyond category." And it's a fine sample of this great jazzman's delicate style.

Midnight Sun—This is Lionel Hampton's standard, arranged by Jimmy Hamilton for the Spacemen. It's a pretty ballad, featuring the clarinet most of the way.

Take the "A" Train—The session ended on a familiar note with the Ellington theme song, which, incidentally, was written by Billy Strayhorn. After the usual piano in-

roduction, the front line takes it, with solos by Hamilton and Terry, and with the regular Ellington last chorus.

Now that the Spacemen have been officially launched, this breezy small band is a new dimension for Duke's jazz expression. In fact, the Ellington Spacemen are ready for another session. So am I.

IRVING TOWNSEND

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