

BILLY STRAYHORN

Day Dream

*Complete 1945-1961
Sessions as a Leader*





The great Billy Strayhorn (1915-1967), jazz composer, pianist, lyricist, and arranger, was best known for his successful collaboration with bandleader and composer Duke Ellington, which lasted nearly three decades. Our release presents the first two albums Strayhorn issued under his own name (out of just three): *Cue for Saxophone* (Felsted 7008), and *The Peaceful Side* (United Artists Jazz UAJ 14010). In addition, this set contains all of Strayhorn's other sides as a leader up to 1961, among them amazing piano duets with Duke Ellington, three rare unaccompanied solo selections, and various small group performances. Strayhorn's best compositions include "Take the 'A' Train", "Chelsea Bridge", "Passion Flower", "Day Dream", and "Lush Life", all of which are present here (the latter track is featured both in a 1961 instrumental version, and in a vocal/piano duet by Kay Davis and Strayhorn recorded live at Carnegie Hall in 1948).

★★★★ ALL MUSIC GUIDE: *The Peaceful Side*

Strayhorn's melodic and concise playing is quite somber, peaceful in volume but filled with inner tension." (Scott Yanow)

★★★★ ALL MUSIC GUIDE: *Cue for Saxophone*

"Composer/arranger/pianist Billy Strayhorn led surprisingly few sessions throughout his career, and this was only his second full-length album. The results are a fine mainstream session." (Scott Yanow)

CD1: Total Time: 79:21

- 01 LUSH LIFE 3:28
- 02 JUST A SITTYN' AND A ROCKIN' 2:52
- 03 PASSION FLOWER 3:42
- 04 TAKE THE "A" TRAIN 3:17
- 05 STRANGE FEELING 3:41
- 06 DAY DREAM 4:04
- 07 CHELSEA BRIDGE 3:18
- 08 MULTI-COLORED BLUE 3:27
- 09 SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR 3:03
- 10 A FLOWER IS A LOVELY THING 4:45
- 11 CUE'S BLUE NOW 10:04
- 12 GONE WITH THE WIND 4:20
- 13 CHEERFUL 5:55
- 14 WATCH YOUR CUE 3:12
- 15 YOU BROUGHT A NEW KIND OF LOVE TO ME 7:24
- 16 WHEN I DREAM OF YOU 3:34
- 17 ROSE ROOM 6:11
- 18 FEATHER ROLL BLUES 3:02

CD2: Total Time: 78:48

- 01 HALFWAY TO DAWN (version 1) 4:22
- 02 TAILSPIN 3:55
- 03 HALFWAY TO DAWN (version 2) 4:45
- 04 SONG 4:30
- 05 FRUSTRATION 3:37
- 06 SONG (alternate take) 4:20
- 07 COTTON TAIL 2:57
- 08 C. JAM BLUES 3:00
- 09 FLAMINGO 3:02
- 10 BANG-UP BLUES 3:10
- 11 TONK #1 3:01
- 12 JOHNNY COME LATELY 3:03
- 13 IN A BLUE SUMMER GARDEN 4:08
- 14 GREAT TIMES 2:58
- 15 PERDIDO 2:58
- 16 TAKE THE "A" TRAIN 2:22
- 17 OSCALYPSSO 2:46
- 18 BLUES FOR BLANTON 2:38
- 19 TONK #2 3:29
- 20 DRAWING ROOM BLUES 3:41
- 21 TONK #3 2:40
- 22 LUSH LIFE (live at Carnegie Hall 1948) 6:30

BILLY STRAYHORN, piano

On all tracks, plus:

CD1, 1-10: *The Peaceful Side*, Michel Gaudry (b), the Paris String Quartet, the Paris Blue Notes (vocals), Paris, France, May 1961.

CD1, 11-17: *Cue for Saxophone*, Harold "Shorty" Baker (tp), Quentin Jackson (bb), Russell Procope (cl), Johnny Hodges (as), Al Hall (b), Oliver Jackson (d), New York, April 14, 1958.

CD1, 18: Ray Nance (tp), Jimmy Hamilton (cl), Al Sears (bb), Harry Carney (bar), Junior Raglin (b), Fletcher Jackson (d), New York, 1947.

CD2, 1-6: *The Jazz Scene*

1-3: Billy Strayhorn (unaccompanied piano), Hollywood, fall 1947.

4-6: Harry Carney (bar), Fred Guy (g), Oscar Pettiford (b), Sonny Greer (b), Duke Ellington (arr), plus strings, Hollywood, late Summer or fall 1947.

CD2, 7-21: *Duke Ellington-Billy Strayhorn Piano Duets*

Billy Strayhorn & Duke Ellington (piano duet), Wendell Marshall, Joe Shuman or Lloyd Trotman (b), Oscar Pettiford (cl), Jo Jones (b), New York & Massachusetts, 1945-50.

CD2, 22: Kay Davis (vc) backed by Billy Strayhorn on piano.

Duke Ellington (announcer), Live at Carnegie Hall, New York, November 13, 1948.

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See 20-page booklet
for complete information.



ESSENTIAL JAZZ CLASSICS

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