

CD REVIEW



Album Cover



Lanny Morgan

CD Title: A SUITE FOR YARDBIRD

Artist: The Lanny Morgan Quartet

Style: Straight Ahead/Be-Bop

CD#: FSR 5823

Record Label: FRESH SOUNDS

The Lanny Morgan Quartet Are:

Lanny Morgan: Alto Sax

LOU LEVY : Piano

TOM

WARRINGTON: Bass

PAUL KREIBICH : Drums

Hot on the heels of his 1997 Contemporary release *Pacific Standard*, *Lanny Morgan* has put together possibly his best work to date. *A Suite for Yardbird* goes to the heart of the matter for Lanny. The Charlie Parker book is in the fore front of any Be-Bopper or Straight Ahead players mind. It represents so many aspects of this music and we are very lucky to have players such as Lanny to keep reminding us of how much we owe to The Parker Legacy. From the opening phrases of *Ornithology* to the spiritual opening of *The Hymn*, to the almost show tune, swinging of *Klact-Oveseed-Tene*, this Quartet consisting of the legendary *Lou Levy* on Piano, *Tom Warrington* on Bass and one of the most in demand time keepers around, *Paul Kreibich* on drums has got what it takes to 'keep the faith' and also keep up with *Lanny Morgan* on his Alto Sax. When playing this music of *Charlie Parker*, as in life, timing is everything. When you listen to the opening of *KoKo*, you are listening to the same tempo that the original was done in. This is truly an amazing version of the song. Lannys' blinding speed on Alto is legendary but never has it been more evident than on *KoKo* or *The Hymn* which is done in an even faster tempo than *KoKo*. On *KoKo* Lanny does three choruses, The first is the original Parker chorus then two improvisations of his own. Pure Genius! *Blues for Alice* is a good example of how much a rhythm section means. *Paul Kreibich* with the brushes is as good as any you will hear and his transition to the sticks is as smooth as you will hear. *Lou Levy* shows why anyone interested in phrasing calls on him. And *Tom Warrington* on Bass proves once again that you can be quick and have some resonance to your sound. So many players today lose something when they are going fast. Not so with *Tom*. Check him out on *Donna Lee*. All in all this is a most satisfying album. With Liners by the producer *Dick Bank* and historian *Alun Morgan*, this album is one to have for future reference as well as pure listening enjoyment