

Ben Webster & 'Sweets' Edison – Wanted To Do One Together (1962)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 15 December 2019 16:02 -

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A1 Better Go 8:59 A2 How Long Has This Been Going On 5:30 A3 Kitty 7:59 B1 My Romance 4:11 B2 Did You Call Her Today 8:53 B3 Embraceable You 4:07 Bass – George Duvivier Drums – Clarence Johnston Piano – Hank Jones Tenor Saxophone – Ben Webster Trumpet – "Sweets" Edison

Tenor saxophonist Ben Webster and trumpeter Harry "Sweets" Edison, both veterans of the swing era (although associated with different orchestras), had long wanted to record a full album together. The results, a swinging quintet set with pianist Hank Jones, bassist George Duvivier, and drummer Clarence Johnston, are quite rewarding. There are two ballad features for the tenor ("How Long Has This Been Going On" and a beautiful version of "My Romance") and one for Edison ("Embraceable You"), along with three medium-tempo collaborations. Nothing unexpected occurs but the melodic music is quite enjoyable. ---Scott Yanow, ALIMusic Review

The title track, "Better Go" reminds me a whole lot that this CD sets up a lot like "Buck and Buddy - Blowin' the Blues"; but then comes Ben Webster swooping in on "How Long Has This Been Going On" and I'm immediately reminded how much better of a CD this is - no disrespect to Buck (one of my all-time favorites) or Buddy. But, my God, what a beautiful pair Webster and Edison make! 'Sweets' rips up the opener and right away shows that he is in top form, with George Duvivier laying the 4/4 down. "Kitty", track three, has Hank Jones comp-ing nicely over Edison, then "the Brute" blows 'em away...leaving Hank to do the best he can. "My Romance" finds Webster romantic, indeed, and I can almost hear the string orchestra on "Ballads" in the back of my head. Just beautiful. Jones opens "Did You Call Her Today" with a nice Duke/Count double tribute, and 'Sweets' rides over the "Mellowtone-like" composition first, besting Ben this

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time, but not by much. Jones then gets off his best solo of the session, again comp-ing nicely to the finish. 'Sweets' closes out with the ballad "Embracable You". Clarence Johnston deserves a mention on drums due to perfect backing on everything, especially this one - he comes in halfway through and doesn't disturb 'Sweets' one bit. All in all, a real All-Star date for a real All-Star pair. ---amazon.com

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