

Stanley Turrentine - The Essential Stanley Turrentine (2015)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 01 July 2015 15:46 - Last Updated Wednesday, 01 July 2015 15:57

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CD1 01 Sugar (10:03) 02 Sunshine Alley (10:46) 03 Impressions (14:09) 04 Just As I Am (5:26) 05 Make Me Rainbows (From the UA Film. (6:04) 06 Gibraltar (Alternate Version) (11:18) 07 Ponteio (3:42) 08 Vera Cruz (5:08) 09 I Haven't Got Anything Better to Do (4:33) 10 Salt Song (7:14) CD2 11 Gibraltar (10:18) 12 I Told Jesus (7:38) 13 Storm (7:31) 14 Speed Ball (6:39) 15 Sister Sanctified (6:00) 16 Cherry (5:13) 17 Introspective (6:59) 18 Mississippi City Strut (8:39) 19 Don't Mess With Mister T. (9:48) 20 Pieces of Dreams (7:28)

A legend of the tenor saxophone, Stanley Turrentine was renowned for his distinctively thick, rippling tone, an earthy grounding in the blues, and his ability to work a groove with soul and imagination. Turrentine recorded in a wide variety of settings, but was best-known for his Blue Note soul-jazz jams of the '60s, and also underwent a popular fusion makeover in the early '70s. Born in Pittsburgh on April 5, 1934, Turrentine began his career playing with various blues and R&B bands, with a strong influence from Illinois Jacquet. He played in Lowell Fulson's band with Ray Charles from 1950-1951, and in 1953, he replaced John Coltrane in Earl Bostic's early R&B/jazz band. After a mid-'50s stint in the military, Turrentine joined Max Roach's band and subsequently met organist Shirley Scott, whom he married in 1960 and would record with frequently.

Upon moving to Philadelphia, Turrentine struck up a chemistry with another organist, Jimmy Smith, appearing on Smith's 1960 classics *Back at the Chicken Shack* and *Midnight Special*, among others. Also in 1960, Turrentine began recording as a leader for Blue Note, concentrating chiefly on small-group soul-jazz on classics like *That's Where It's At*, but also working with the Three Sounds (on 1961's *Blue Hour*) and experimenting with larger ensemble settings in the mid-'60s. As the '70s dawned, Turrentine and Scott divorced and Turrentine became a popular linchpin of Creed Taylor's new, fusion-oriented CTI label; he recorded five albums, highlighted by *Sugar*, *Salt Song*, and *Don't Mess With Mister T.* While those commercially accessible efforts were artistically rewarding as well, critical opinion wasn't as kind

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to his late-'70s work for Fantasy; still, Turrentine continued to record prolifically, and returned to his trademark soul-jazz in the '80s and '90s. Turrentine passed away on September 12, 2000, following a massive stroke. --- Steve Huey, Rovi

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