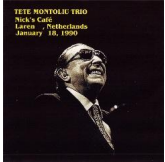


Tete Montoliu - Nick's Café (1990)

Written by bluesever

Monday, 21 January 2013 17:38 - Last Updated Thursday, 22 March 2018 22:39

Tete Montoliu - Nick's Café (1990)



1 - Monk Theme (the title evades me) 2 - Straight, no Chaser 3 - J J Johnson's Lament 4 - Up Jumped Spring 5 - Announcer 6 - What's New 7 - Giant Steps 8 - Nancy (with the laughing face) + If I Should Loose You 9 - Old Folks + It's You or No One 10 - All of You + announcer Musicians: Tete Montoliu – piano Herbie Lewis – bass Billy Higgins – drums
Nick Vollebregt's Café, Laren, Netherlands January 18, 1990

Vincenç Montoliu y Massana, 28 February 1933, Barcelona, Spain, d. 24 August 1997, Barcelona, Spain. Blind from birth, pianist Montoliu studied classical music as a child, but in his early teens started listening to the American jazz records issued by the La Vos de su Amo label, in particular the challenging work of artists such as Art Tatum, Earl Hines and Bud Powell. His own playing developed into a European interpretation of these American greats. He began playing with the American tenor Don Byas when he was 13, while still studying at the Barcelona Conservatory. By the mid-50s he was regularly sitting in with visiting American artists, including Lionel Hampton. By the end of the decade he had ventured north to play at a number of important European jazz festivals and had also played in Scandinavia.

Montoliu's own recording career began in 1958, and he was to prove a prolific recording artist. In the late 60s he played in New York, thereafter establishing an international reputation as a gifted soloist with enormous technical skills that never obstructed his ability to generate a powerful swing. Among the musicians with whom he worked are Ben Webster, Anthony Braxton, Rahsaan Roland Kirk and Dexter Gordon. He led a series of talented trios from the mid-70s onwards, including bass players George Mraz and Niels-Henning Ørsted Pedersen, and drummers Al 'Tootie' Heath and Al Foster. He was active up until his death from lung cancer in 1997. ---oldies.com

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