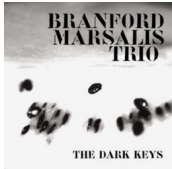


Branford Marsalis – Dark keys (1996)

Written by bluesever

Monday, 15 August 2011 14:17 - Last Updated Monday, 04 August 2014 13:51

Branford Marsalis – Dark keys (1996)



1. *Dark Keys* 2. *Hesitation* [play](#) 3. *Thousand Autumns* 4. *Sentinel* 5. *Lykeif* [play](#) 6. *Judas Iscariot* 7. *Blu Tain* 8. *Schott Happens*

Branford Marsalis (tenor & soprano saxophones); Reginald Veal (bass); Jeff "Tain" Watts (drums). + Kenny Garrett (alto saxophone) - 6; Joe Lovano (tenor saxophone) - 4.

Dark Keys is Branford Marsalis' first major solo album since taking a leave from recording to be the musical director of The Tonight Show in 1993. Instead of following through with the hip-hop inclinations of Buckshot LeFonque, Marsalis has returned to traditional jazz, yet this is far from standard bop. Marsalis pushes at the borders of post-bop, adding elements of hip-hop and rock & roll, making for an adventurous and exciting listen. Occasionally, his experiments are unsuccessful, yet they are never less than intriguing. --- Leo Stanley

THE DARK KEYS is Branford's first recording in the jazz trio format since his acclaimed 1993 album Bloomington. As before, Marsalis teamed with his long-time drummer Jeff "Tain" Watts, while bringing in Reginald Veal as the band's new bassist. Adding even more drama, saxophone greats Joe Lovano and Kenny Garrett joined Marsalis for a pair of horn duets on THE DARK KEYS.

Somehow it's hard to picture: Branford Marsalis, the roaring lion of the saxophone, out on the links wielding a putter. Yet that's where he's likely to be found these days as he pursues a new-found passion for golf. "I find golf is a lot like music," he says. "It's a battle against yourself. Golf is hard. Music is hard. To get the nuances of either takes a long time." Anyone acquainted

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with the music of Branford Marsalis would agree that he's put in the time and won the battle. For any remaining skeptics, Branford offers his new Columbia album, THE DARK KEYS, a wonderment of texture, mood, and air-tight ensemble performance.

Produced by Delfeayo Marsalis, THE DARK KEYS is Branford's first recording in the jazz trio format since his acclaimed 1993 album Bloomington. As before, Marsalis teamed with his long-time drummer Jeff "Tain" Watts, while bringing in Reginald Veal as the band's new bassist. Adding even more drama, saxophone greats Joe Lovano and Kenny Garrett joined Marsalis for a pair of horn duets on THE DARK KEYS.

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