John Coltrane – Settin' The Pace (2008)



1. I See Your Face Before Me 2. If There Is Someone Lovelier Than You 3. Little Melonae 4. Rise'n'Shine 5. By The Numbers John Coltrane - tenor saxophone Red Garland - piano Paul Chambers - bass Art Taylor - drums

This is John Coltrane from the period when he was a member of Miles Davis' legendary 1950s quintet, accompanied by fellow quintet members Red Garland and Paul Chambers. This is Coltrane in a relaxed bop mode, making some swinging, relaxed jazz in the vein of Sonny Rollins and Stan Getz (the latter in his more boppish mode). This is not the fire-breathing saxophonist of the mid-'60s, but a player who was beginning to push against the boundaries, all the while playing with thoughtful, imaginative lyricism. It's a set of little-known pop tunes of the era, with the exception of Jackie McLean's "Little Melonae." Anyone who likes the mainstream jazz of the '50s, or Miles' music of that time, or Coltrane fans who want to hear their idol in an easygoing context, should pick this up. ---Rovi

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