

Julius Hemphill Sextet - Five Chord Stud - Jazz Masters (1994)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Band Theme* [5:38] 2. *Mr. Critical "for Ornette"* [3:44] 3. *Shorty* [6:49] 4. *Mirrors* [5:49] 5. *Five Chord Stud* [13:46] 6. *The Moat and the Bridge* [7:20] 7. *Georgia Blue* [5:48] 8. *Flush* [7:51] 9. *Spiritual Chairs "for Bill T. Jones"* [7:12] Tim Berne - Sax (Alto), Sax (Tenor) James Carter - Sax (Alto), Sax (Tenor) Marty Ehrlich - Sax (Alto), Sax (Soprano), Sax (Tenor) Sam Furnace - Sax (Alto), Sax (Baritone), Sax (Soprano) Julius Hemphill - Composer, Conductor, Producer Fred Ho - Sax (Alto), Sax (Baritone), Sax (Soprano) Andrew White - Sax (Alto), Sax (Soprano), Sax (Tenor)

Although altoist Julius Hemphill gets top billing on this CD, his heart surgery in 1993 forced him to stop playing. However, this saxophone sextet was his regular group; he contributed six of the eight compositions (the other two are free improvisations) and the chancetaking heard throughout this adventurous music definitely makes most of the performances sound like they came from a Julius Hemphill recording even if his alto is missed. The sextet has a very strong lineup (altoists Tim Berne, Marty Ehrlich and Sam Furnace, tenors James Carter and Andrew White and baritonist Fred Ho) and the resulting CD contains more than its share of variety. The music ranges from the soulful "Spiritual Chairs" and a boppish "Band Theme" to introspective ballads and wild passionate interplay. Other than Fred Ho (who is not heard from enough), each of the players has their chance to star. The generally fascinating music rewards repeated listenings but one has to have an open mind before putting it on. ---Scott Yanow, Rovi

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