

Rex Stewart & Dickie Wells – Chatter Jazz (1959)

Written by bluesever (Bogdan Marszałkowski)
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A1 Little Sir Echo 2:30 A2 Together 2:11 A3 Let's Call The Whole Thing Off 2:20 A4 Gimme A Little Kiss, Will Ya, Huh? 2:11 A5 Show Me The Way To Go Home 3:04 A6 Frankie And Johnny 2:17 B1 Let's Do It 2:50 B2 I May Be Wrong (But I Think You're Wonderful) 3:07 B3 Thou Swell 2:02 B4 Side By Side 2:40 B5 Ain't We Got Fun 2:47 B6 Jeepers Creepers 2:27 Bass – Leonard Gaskin Cornet – Rex Stewart Drums – Charlie Masterpaolo Piano – John Bunch Trombone – Dickie Wells

These 1959 sessions paired two potent soloists, trumpeter Rex Stewart (an alum of Duke Ellington's band) and trombonist Dicky Wells (a veteran of Count Basie's orchestra). Backed by pianist John Bunch, bassist Leonard Gaskin, and drummer Charlie Masterpaolo, the two horn players exchange ideas through a series of "conversations" utilizing various mutes, never going for very long without giving time to the other. These friendly studio dates are somewhat low-key but consistently swinging; the only drawback is that the tracks are rather brief, with only two of the 12 songs exceeding three minutes. Highlights include their humorous exchanges in "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off" and "Show Me the Way to Go Home" (featuring some fine stride piano by Bunch). This long unavailable RCA Victor LP is extremely hard to find. ---Ken Dryden, allmusic.com

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