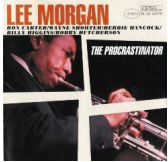


Lee Morgan - The Procrastinator (1995)

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1 *The Procrastinator* 8:05 2 *Party Time* 6:00 3 *Dear Sir* 6:53 4 *Stopstart* 6:09 5 *Rio* 6:10 6 *Soft Touch* 7:00 Lee Morgan (trumpet) Wayne Shorter (tenor saxophone) Bobby Hutcherson (vibraphone) Herbie Hancock (piano) Ron Carter (bass) Billy Higgins (drums)
Rec. July 14, 1967 - October 10, 1969, New York, NY Van Gelder Studios, Englewood Cliffs, NJ

It is surprising that Lee Morgan's *The Procrastinator* was not released when it was recorded in 1967 for the sextet (which includes Wayne Shorter, vibraphonist Bobby Hutcherson, pianist Herbie Hancock, bassist Ron Carter and drummer Billy Higgins) lives up to their potential on a well-rounded set of originals by Morgan and Shorter. The music ranges from the funky "Party Time" (which sounds like it could have been written by Horace Silver) to more explorative pieces. ---Scott Yanow, AllMusic Review

Surely one of Morgan's finest sessions, insanely cheap as a two-fer, should be on everyone's shelf, no excuses. It's the dream team of Hancock, Shorter, Carter, Hutcherson and Higgins, and the compositions are enormously strong. It was recorded around the same time as Miles was recording *Nefertiti*, so those tunes must have been going through the minds of Carter, Hancock and Shorter as they ran with *The Procrastinator*, must have given their playing some edge, and rubbed off on Morgan.

The Procrastinator is swinging, bluesy, cool, adventurous and unstoppable listening, every track is a delight. It may well be Morgan's "best album" (1,000 upticks), his compositions got more

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confident and original, though the idea of “best” is an unhelpful qualifier in jazz. Like the Mona Lisa is Da Vinci’s best painting, you don’t look at any others? It’s a conversation point, not a voting booth.

The second track Party Time was my second pick, followed by all the rest. No duds, everyone deserves repeated play, repeatedly. The idea that this session had to wait to 1978 to be released is simply outrageous. The fact you can pick it up on vintage vinyl for less than \$20, for two LPs not one, is more than outrageous, it’s positively criminal. Some times the best things in life are next-to-free. Just not very often. Seize the day. ---londonjazzcollector.wordpress.com

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