Jackie McLean - Strange Blues (1957)

01. Strange Blues (7:34) 02. Millie's Pad (11:19) 03. What's New (6:38) 04. Disciples Love Affair (6:52) 05. Not So Strange Blues (4:50) Jackie McLean – alto sax Webster Young - trumpet (2, 4) Ray Draper - tuba (2, 4) Mal Waldron - piano (1) Jon Mayer - piano (2, 4, 5) Gil Coggins - piano (3) Art Phipps - bass (1) Bill Salter - bass (2, 4, 5) Paul Chambers - bass (3) Art Taylor - drums (1) Larry Ritchie - drums (2, 4, 5) Louis Hayes - drums (3)

The last of the Jackie McLean Prestige sessions, this LP has material from two different sets, but fortunately, the music is on a higher level than one might expect of "leftovers." "Strange Blues" is from a marathon quartet set that McLean had with pianist Mal Waldron, bassist Arthur Phipps, and drummer Art Taylor, as is a rendition of "What's New" that is an alternate version to the one included on Makin' the Changes. In addition, "Disciples Love Affair" and "Millie's Pad" match McLean with the tuba of Ray Draper (who contributed both songs), trumpeter Webster Young, pianist John Meyers, bassist Bill Salter, and drummer Larry Ritchie, while the incomplete "Not So Strange Blues" is all McLean on an explosive blues with the rhythm section. A generally strong set chiefly recommended to Jackie McLean completists. ---Scott Yanow, AllMusic Review

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