Ahmad Jamal - Standard Eyes (1967)



A1 Billy Boy A2 Sweet And Lovely A3 I Didn't Know What Time It Was A4 Taboo A5 I'll Never Stop Loving You A6 I'll Remember April B1 So Beats My Heart For You B2 For All We Know B3 The Breeze And I B4 Like Someone In Love B5 Angel Eyes B6 The Girl Next Door Musicians: Bass – Israel Crosby Drums – Vernell Fournier Piano – Ahmad Jamal

One of Ahmad Jamal's most popular trios, with bassist Israel Crosby and drummer Vernel Fournier, is featured in this Cadet LP anthology of live recordings made between 1958 and 1961 for Argo. Even though the pianist sticks almost exclusively to very familiar standards, his fresh approach to each of them makes his interpretations very distinctive. His spacious, light-hearted and Afro-Cuban-flavored arrangement of "Taboo" (which Art Tatum played as a virtuoso showstopper), the adventurous take of "Billy Boy," and the playfulness of his rapid but brief rendition of "I'll Remember April" are among the standout tracks. While it is preferable to locate each of the original records from which each of these dozen tracks were compiled (since not all of them have been reissued on CD), this LP contains a well-rounded sampling of early Ahmad Jamal for those who neither have the time nor the funds to acquire all of them. ---Ken Dryden, allmusic.com

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