Marion Brown – Soul Eyes (1979)

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1. Sunshine Road {Marion Brown} (9:14) 2. Soul Eyes {Mal Waldron} (10:15) 3. Body And Soul {Heyman, Sour, Eyton & Green} (7:14) 4. Afrisa {Marion Brown} (5:18) [play] *5. Goodbye Pork Pie Hat {Charles Mingus} (8:40) 6. Blue Monk {Thelonious Monk} (11:25)*
 Musicians: Marion Brown – Alto Saxophone Kenny Barron – Piano Cecil McBee – Bass Philly Joe Jones – Drums

This share is a belated tribute to the passing of a wonderful jazz musician and talented composer, Marion Brown. Here Brown assembles an amazing quartet of similarly gifted musicians of which none need any introduction. This album eluded US sales by being released in Japan. Although a CD was released later, it still remains hard to obtain. The music presented is a well performed mixture of Brown, Waldron, Heyman, Sour, Eyton & Green Mingus and Monk compositions. Apart from Brown's own tunes all players place their mark to great effect and cohesion to the other familiarised pieces. If you were to procure this album for just one track my choice would be the beautifully executed title track "Soul Eyes" {Mal Waldron}. Brown's tone and deliverance is impeccable and alongside Barron's clean piano lines the piece is a joy right throughout. In having praised the main soloists it would be criminal not to shower additional accolades on the rhythm section. McBee manages to really lock together these sets and of course without Jones' driving percussive force there would have been ample opportunity for the tunes, especially Mingus' and Monk's to be trivialised. Overall this album is a must have if you are a Marion Brown aficionado or a newcomer to Modern-Avant-Garde Jazz. --- liveinjazz.ge

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