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Lester Young - Boston 1950 (2013)



01. Jumpin' With Symphony Sid (fragment) 02. Too Marvelous For Words 03. She's Funny That Way 04. You Can Depend On Me 05. How High The Moon (incomplete) 06. The Talk Of The Town 07. On A Slow Boat To China 08. Indiana 09. Jumpin' With Symphony Sid (fragment) 10. Jumpin' With Symphony Sid (fragment) 11. Sunday 12. Body And Soul 13. Four Flats Unfurnished 14. Jeepers Creepers (incomplete) 15. Up 'N' Adam 16. Blue And Sentimental (incomplete) Musicians/Lineup: Lester Young - sax tenor Jesse Drakes - trumpet Kenny Drew, Horace Silver - piano Joe Schulman, Franklin Skeete - bass Connie Kay – drums

Uptown's 2013 release Boston 1950 features highlights from a series of concerts the great tenor saxophonist Lester Young gave at Boston's Hi-Hat between May 26 and June 11, 1950. He was performing with trumpeter Jesse Drakes, pianist Kenny Drew, bassist Joe Schulman, and drummer Connie Kay. Lester was at one of his peaks during the late '40s and early '50s and these performances have an appealing blend of lively jump and warmth, qualities that are apparent even underneath the somewhat thin audio quality. Listen beyond those compressed sonics and you'll find thoroughly enjoyable, big-hearted hard bop that's something of a joy to hear. The CD concludes with two tracks from a 1953 date at the Hi-Hat where Young was playing once again with Kay and Drakes but pianist Horace Silver and bassist Franklin Skeete rounded out the band. ---Thomas Erlewine, Rovi

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