

Lester Young - The Complete 1936-1951 Small Group Sessions Vol.4 (2005)



01 - *You're Driving me Crazy* 02 - *New Lester Leaps in* 03 - *Lester's Be Bop Boogie* 04 - *She's Funny That Way* 05 - *Sunday* 06 - *S. M. Blues* 07 - *Jumpin' With Symphony Sid* 08 - *No Eyes Blues* [play](#) 09 - *Sax-O-Be-Bop* 10 - *On the Sunny Side of the Street* 11 - *Easy Does It* 12 - *Movin' With Lester* 13 - *One O' Clock Jump* 14 - *Jumpin' at the Woodside* 15 - *Confessin'* 16 - *Lester Smooths it Out* 17 - *Just Coolin'* 18 - *Tea for Two*

[play](#)

19 - *East of the Sun* 20 - *The Sheik of Araby* 21 - *Something to Remember You By* 22 - *Crazy Over J. Z.* 23 - *Ding Dong* 24 - *Blues 'n' Bells* 25 - *June Bug*

Personnel: Bass – Rodney Richardson Drums – Jo Jones Guitar – Freddie Green
Piano – Count Basie ,Johnny Guarneri Saxophone [Tenor] – Lester Young Trombone
– Dicky Wells Trumpet – Buck Clayton

Versions of what followed vary but in 1944 Young was drafted and began a year-long nightmare in the US Army. A convenient mythology suggests that the army destroyed Young as a man and an artist and that the post-war recordings are sad dregs from a once-fine musician. Another tendency indicates that Young's later recordings are actually much more experimental and exploratory as he attempts to come to terms with the rise of bebop (a music he is credited with having influenced). Listeners who have heard Young's classic solos – the 1936 "Lady be Good"(Vol.1) with Jo Jones and Carson Smith, "Jumpin' at the Woodside"(Vol.4) or "Lester Leaps Again" with Basie (Vol.2) – will have to judge how much of a falling-off is evident in the material on the Savoy sessions (1944-1950). The Aladdin sessions do, however, cover some of his best work as a leader, though some of these are for the singer Helen Humes. Young's cool, wry approach still seems slightly out of synch with prevailing expectations, though he is absolutely simpatico with Willie Smith, another figure now routinely overlooked in accounts of how jazz developed into its modern phase.

The big pluses on the Aladdin collection are a rare glimpse of the 1942 Los Angeles session with Nat Cole (Vol 1 & 2), and an instrumental "Riffin' Without Helen", made as part of the

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Humes session presumably while she was off. Penguin Guide. Young's solos in "These Foolish Things"(1945, Vol. 3); "It's Only a Paper Moon" (1946, Vol. 3) and the blues "Easy Does It" (1947, in this Vol. 4) are classics, and the presence of a wild bop trumpeter, Shorty McConnell, in the last tracks pushes the music firmly towards Bop Kingdom. These records illustrate perfectly, as none other, the transition between swing and Bebop.M

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