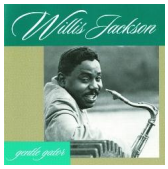
Willis 'Gator' Jackson - Gentle Gator (1962/2008)



1 Solitude (DeLange / Ellington / Mills) 2 Estrellita (Ponce) 3 Girl of My Dreams (Clapp) 4 It Never Entered My Mind (Hart / Rodgers) 5 Al-Di-La (Donida) 6 Careless Love (Handy / Koenig / Williams) 7 I Remember Clifford (Golson) 8 Again (Cochran / Newman) 9 Amor (Mendez / Ruiz) 10 Nancy (With the Laughing Face) (Silvers / VanHeusen) 11 Home (Clarkson / VanSteeden) 12 They Didn't Believe Me (Kern / Rourke)
Willis "Gator" Jackson Sax (Tenor) Juan Amalbert Congas Kenny Burrell Guitar Eddie Calhoun Bass Bobby Donaldson Drums Tommy Flanagan Piano Roy Haynes Drums Gus Johnson Drums Gildo Mahones Piano Wendell Marshall Bass Montego Joe Congas, Percussion Peck Morrison Bass Jimmy Neely Piano Jose Paulo Percussion Bucky Pizzarelli Guitar Emmanuel K. Rahim Percussion Mickey Roker Drums George Tucker Bass Richard Wyands Piano

Tenor-saxophonist Willis Jackson is best-known as a passionate and screaming tenorman who puts a lot of emotion in his playing. This CD reissue is a change of pace for it consists of ballads taken from four of "Gator's" Prestige and Moodsville albums of 1961-62. Jackson plays tastefully and sticks close to the melodies, sounding in good form on such songs as "Estrellita," "Girl of My Dreams," "Home" and "They Didn't Believe Me." However due to the sampler nature of the collection, the sameness of mood and the overly restrained solos, this CD is of lesser interest. ---Scott Yanow, AllMusic Review

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