

Eric Dolphy

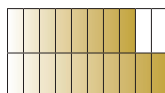
Music Matters/Blue Note 84163



Eric Dolphy released only one album as a leader for Blue Note during his lifetime, but what an album. It's one of a handful of Blue Note reissues at the top of my wish list. One of the greatest jazz albums of all time, and among Dolphy's masterpieces, this all-star session included Freddie Hubbard, Bobby Hutcherson, Richard Davis and Anthony Williams. Recorded in February 1964, this was an avant-garde recording by a label that was increasingly headed in the direction of soulful funk, while the Impulse! label was carrying the flag for the edgier sound exemplified here. This is also one of the best-designed covers in the Blue Note catalog. The "will be back" clock on the cover reminds us that Dolphy, who died later that year, was almost out of time.

Although this was not one of the best of Rudy Van Gelder's recording efforts (for that listen to Music Matters recent release of Lee Morgan's Candy) but it in the upper echelon. Hoffman and Gray have done their usual magic to make this classic sound better than ever before. The foldout cover includes a full-page reproduction of one of my favorite Blue Note session photos of Dolphy in a particularly pensive moment. Highest recommendation! **DD**

RECORDING



MUSIC

