



This was Blakey's first album for Blue Note in several years, after a period of recording for a number of different labels, and marked both a homecoming and a fresh start. Originally the LP was self-titled, but the instant popularity of the bluesy opening track "Moanin'" (by pianist Bobby Timmons) led to its becoming known by that title.

The rest of the originals are by saxophonist Benny Golson (who was not with the Jazz Messengers for long, this being the only American album on which he is featured). "Are You Real?" is a propulsive 32-bar piece with a four-bar tag, featuring two-part writing for Golson and trumpeter Lee Morgan. "Along Came Betty" is a more lyrical, long-lined piece, almost serving as the album's ballad. "The Drum Thunder Suite" is a feature for Blakey, in three movements: "Drum Thunder"; "Cry a Blue Tear"; and "Harlem's Disciples". "Blues March" calls on the feeling of the New Orleans marching bands, and the album finishes on its only standard, an unusual-

ly brisk reading of "Come Rain or Come Shine". Of the originals on the album, all but the "Drum Thunder Suite" became staples of the Messengers book, even after Timmons and Golson were gone. Recorded by Rudy Van Gelder in his meticulous Hackensack studios, this recording reflects the hallmark precision associated with that engineer.

The album stands as one of the archetypal hard bop albums of the era, for the intensity of Blakey's drumming and the work of Morgan, Golson and Timmons, and for its combination of old-fashioned gospel and blues influences with a sophisticated modern jazz sensibility. The album was identified by jazz critic Scott Yanow as one of "17 Essential Hard Bop Recordings". AllMusic gives it a five-star review, stating: "Moanin' includes some of the greatest music Blakey produced in the studio with arguably his very best band. ... ranks with the very best of Blakey and what modern jazz offered in the late '50s and beyond."

# Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers Moanin'

- 1 Moanin' 9:30
- 2 Are You Real 4:45
- 3 Along Came Betty 6:05
- The Drum Thunder (Miniature) Suite 7:15
- 4 First Theme: Drum Thunder
- 5 Second Theme: Cry A Blue Tear
- 6 Third Theme: Harlem's Disciples
- 7 Blues March 6:15
- 8 Come Rain Or Come Shine 5:45

Recorded by Blue Note Records on October 30, 1958  
Recorded at Van Gelder Studio, Hackensack, New Jersey  
Producer Alfred Lion Recorded By Rudy Van Gelder  
Transferred from a 15ips tape



For more info e-mail us:  
[info@highdeftapetransfers.ca](mailto:info@highdeftapetransfers.ca)  
or visit our website:  
[www.highdeftapetransfers.ca](http://www.highdeftapetransfers.ca)