



Several Shades of Jade is a point of departure for Cal Trader – leader, vibraphonist, ex-drummer, and displaced Latin. Prior to this album, Cal was identified almost exclusively with small-group, big-sound Latin Jazz. After listening to the tapes from the first day's session for this set however, Tjader told producer Creed Taylor, "I'll never record with a small group again."

It is doubtful that Taylor, Cal's fans or the A.A.O.L.J.D. (the Association for the Advancement of Latin Jazz Drummers) would permit him to quit the small group scene altogether. This album will help to bring his talents to a wider and more diversified audience, however, "Carrying his personal jazz message to the public," is what jazz apologists call it.

The music of Several Shades of Jade has its essence in the Far, Middle and Near East. Some of it is directly adapted from foreign originals; China Nights is an example of this. The song is the Stardust of the Far East. The rest of the other compositions are more like musical impressions and fantasies about places and things in the Middle East and Orient. This is certainly true of Horace Silver's Tokyo Blues, Hot Sake by Quincy Jones, Ronnell Bright's Cherry Blossoms and Stan Applebaum's Sahib. It is also true of all the Lalo Schifrin compositions.

The album is one of Schifrin's strongest arranging and writing jobs on record to date. The music flashes and shimmers, wells up, swings, and then languidly and sensuously stretches out. Several Shades of Jade is a most explicit title for the listener is presented with constantly changing reflections, not only from composition to composition, but from one section of a tune to the next.

In each of the arrangements, and especially in his own compositions, Schifrin has taken a theme or a mood or a rhythm from the East and toyed with it, kidded it, parodied it, cajoled it and then he has effectively sent it on its way wearing new baubles and new beads.

True to the Tjader tradition, however, there are tracks that carry a distinctly Latin rhythmic cast. There are also sections that give the artful vibes man the room and the inclination to weave his lithe brand of improvi-

sation around a pulsating theme. The music buzzes, whirrs and slithers along the funky Eastern themes with the assortment of gongs, cymbals, temple bells, etc., generously interlaced with timbale, gourd, conga and bongo. The whole thing fits together neatly with the listener never realizing that the composer-arranger-conductor is a fellow from Argentina who spent most his recent years writing concerto, bossa nova and blues for Diz Gillespie, and that the soloist is a fellow from St. Louis who has played with Brubeck, Shearing and has been in the jazz and timbale racket for the past five or six years.

There was much excitement during the recording of this album. It's not evident in the shop of an in-person mob, but rather in the sheer, sky-rocketing brilliance of the music. The musicians were caught up in the dramatic contrasts and the swing of it all. Interest was so high during the recording that a group of the players, who had been in on all three days recording, hung around the control room following the final session.

They listened to the best takes of each tune along with Schifrin, Taylor and Tjader.

It took 23 men to make this album, but few of them are on every track. Schifrin has used an infinite variety of instruments to create the constantly changing texture of backgrounds against which Tjader's solos are set. The musicians came and went during the Webster Hall recording days, but present at all the dates was the percussion section which, along with Latin drummers, featured the playing of drummer Ed Shaughnessy, bassist George Duvivier, and Johnny Rae (the only permanent of Tjader's regular combo on the date) playing timbales. Much of the credit for cohesion and excitement from track to track goes to these men who poured the rhythmic life blood into the arrangements with their artful, precise and vigorous playing.

Cal Tjader

Several Shades Of Jade

1. The Fakir 2:53
 2. Cherry Blossoms 4:59
 3. Borneo 3:45
 4. Tokyo Blues 3:52
 5. Song Of The Yellow River 3:18
 6. Sahib 2:29
 7. China Nights 3:24
 8. Almond Tree 2:58
 9. Hot Sake 3:35
- Total Time: 31:13

Producer – Creed Taylor Engineer – Bob Simpson
Engineer [Director Of Engineering For Verve] – Val Valentin
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