

perky "Midnight Sun" that deviates from any other slow and lugubrious version of the ballad, and two attempts of "Jones" the first a real good swinger, the second with a more unified horn chart accented by a New Orleans shuffle provided by drummer Sam Woodyard. There are two originals; the blues bass of Jimmy Woode and the 'bones with plentiful piano from Duke infusing "Bass-Ment," and one of the more delightful of all of Ellington's book, the poppin' and boppin' "Spacemen," a bright happy horn chart led by Terry that is one of the more distinctive Ellington numbers of this time period.

THE COSMIC SCENE

DUKE ELLINGTON'S SPACEMEN



CLARK TERRY, TRUMPET
PAUL GONSALVES, TENOR SAX
JIMMY HAMILTON, CLARINET
SAM WOODYARD, DRUMS
JOHN SANDERS, TROMBONE
QUENTIN JACKSON, TROMBONE
BRITT WOODMAN, TROMBONE
JIMMY WOOD, BASS
DUKE ELLINGTON, PIANO

AVALON
BODY AND SOUL
BASS-MENT
EARLY AUTUMN
JONES
PERDIDO
ST. LOUIS BLUES
SPACEMEN
MIDNIGHT SUN
TAKE THE "A" TRAIN

Still riding the success of his triumphant concert at the 1956 Newport Jazz Festival, Duke Ellington in 1958 decided to reduce his touring orchestra to a nonet dubbed "the Spacemen" in 1958, and recorded this lone project with them for the Columbia label. Perhaps inspired by the first orbiting satellites, Ellington is not taking cues from George Russell or Sun Ra, whose extraterrestrial inspirations led them down even more progressive paths. This large ensemble is playing mostly standards, but the arrangements and solos carve an integrated yet elasticized concept that allows for a more expanded role for the ensemble's trombonists

Quentin "Butter" Jackson, John Sanders, and Britt Woodman, and select soloists. One in the solo spotlight is Clark Terry on flugelhorn exclusively, putting his fabled trumpet aside. The classic material presented includes clarinetist Jimmy Hamilton's features "Avalon" and "Early Autumn," the slinky stripper pole blues version of "St. Louis Blues" with Ellington's piano taking the lead, and two versions of "Body & Soul," with tenor saxophonist Paul Gonsalves completely extrapolating and re-harmonizing the main take, while faithfully playing the original melody on the alternate selection. There's a modified "Perdido," an animated and

Duke Ellington's Spacemen The Cosmic Scene

- 1 Avalon 3:18
- 2 Body And Soul 4:54
- 3 Bass-ment 2:33
- 4 Early Autumn 3:08
- 5 Jones 2:55
- 6 Perdido 2:47
- 7 St. Louis Blues 5:06
- 8 Spacemen 2:30
- 9 Midnight Sun 3:55
- 10 Take The "A" Train 4:58

Piano – Duke Ellington • Bass – Jimmy Wood • Clarinet – Jimmy Hamilton

Drums – Sam Woodyard • Tenor Saxophone – Paul Gonsalves

Trombone – Britt Woodman, John Sanders, Quentin Jackson • Trumpet – Clark Terry

Recorded by Columbia at Columbia 30th Street Studio, New York on April 2-3 1958

Engineer - Fred Plaut • Producer - Irving Townsend



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