



# JOHN COLTRANE / Settin' The Pace



Mastered in DSD256



In one sense, "Settin' The Pace" is not much more than a throwaway session from 1958 in which John Coltrane delivered on his contract with Prestige, suffering, as with most of their musicians at this time, from no paid time for rehearsals. The band - John Coltrane (tenor sax), Red Garland (piano), Paul Chambers (bass) and Art Taylor (drums) - sound anything but prepared. So this is something like a long intake of breath before the luminous breakthroughs of "Kind of Blue" with Miles Davis and his own "Giant Steps" both issuing forth just a year later. Yet John Coltrane is such an important voice in the development of jazz that even as a throwaway "Settin' The Pace" has a qualities greater than most jazz musicians achieve in a lifetime.

Three seemingly unpromising show tunes from the '30s are given the distinctive John Coltrane treatment.

The Dietz/Schwartz ballad "I See Your Face Before Me" is given a beautiful reworking, a foretaste perhaps of the control and expressiveness that he would bring to compositions of his own such as "Naima". "If There is Someone Lovelier Than You" by the same composers is more uptempo and routine sounding, yet leads to some distinctive playing. "Rise 'N' Shine".

On a more solid bop foundation, a long version of Jackie McLean's "Little Melonae" is the stand out track, with strong musical ideas throughout. The whole band seems to know this one well with Red Garland opening up in a way that he does not elsewhere.

# John Coltrane Settin' The Pace

- 1 I See Your Face Before Me 9:58
  - 2 If There Is Someone Lovelier Than You 9:22
  - 3 Little Melonae 14:07
  - 4 Rise 'N' Shine 7:14
- Total Time: 40:41

Engineer - Rudy Van Gelder Supervised By - Bob Weinstock  
Recorded by Prestige Records March 26, 1958  
at Van Gelder Studio, Hackensack, New Jersey

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