

1963, Coltrane and Hartman had decided on 10 songs for the record album, but en route to the studio they heard Nat King Cole on the radio performing "Lush Life", and Hartman immediately decided that song had to be included in their album.

The recording was made on March 7, 1963 at the Van Gelder Studio in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. Hartman once said that each song was done in only one take, except for "You Are Too Beautiful", which required two takes because Elvin Jones dropped one of his drumsticks during the first take.



Johnny Hartman and John Coltrane



Mastered in DSD256

John Coltrane's matchup with singer Johnny Hartman, although quite unexpected, works extremely well. Hartman was in prime form on the six ballads, and his versions of "Lush Life" and "My One and Only Love" have never been topped. Coltrane's playing throughout the session is beautiful, sympathetic, and still exploratory; he sticks exclusively to tenor on the date. At only half an hour, one wishes there were twice as much music, but what is here is classic, essential for all jazz collections.

Although it is often reported that Coltrane and Hartman had known each other since their days playing with Dizzy Gillespie's band in the late 1940s, the truth is that their time in the band never overlapped. Coltrane might have heard

Hartman sing at a 1950 Apollo Theater performance at which they shared the stage. Hartman is the only vocalist with whom the saxophonist would record as a leader. Initially when producer Bob Thiele approached Hartman with Coltrane's request that the two record together Hartman was hesitant as he did not consider himself a jazz singer and did not think he and Coltrane would complement one another musically. However, Thiele encouraged Hartman to go see Coltrane perform at Birdland in New York City to see if something could be worked out. Hartman did so, and after the club closed he, Coltrane and Coltrane's pianist, McCoy Tyner, went over some songs together. On March 7,

John Coltrane and Johnny Hartman

- 1 They Say It's Wonderful 5:15**
- 2 Dedicated To You 5:27**
- 3 My One And Only Love 4:50**
- 4 Lush Life 5:20**
- 5 You Are Too Beautiful 5:32**
- 6 Autumn Serenade 4:11**

Engineer – Rudy Van Gelder

Producer – Bob Thiele

Recorded at the Van Gelder Studio, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey on March 7, 1963.



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admin@highdeftapetransfers.com
or visit our website:
www.highdeftapetransfers.com