



SONNY MEETS HAWK!

SONNY ROLLINS AND COLEMAN HAWKINS
THE TWO GIANTS OF THE TENOR SAXOPHONE



Throughout a career that spanned more than 40 years, Coleman Hawkins consistently maintained a progressive attitude, operating at or near the cutting edge of developments in jazz. If Hawk's versatility came in handy when he backed Abbey Lincoln during Max Roach's 1960 *We Insist! Freedom Now Suite*, he took on an assignment of challenging dimensions when in 1963 he cut an entire album with Sonny Rollins in the company of pianist Paul Bley, bassists Bob Cranshaw and Henry Grimes, and drummer Roy McCurdy. Coleman Hawkins and Sonny Rollins each virtually defined the tenor saxophone for his respective generation. To hear the two of them interacting freely is a deliciously exciting experience. Hawkins is able to cut loose like never before. Sometimes the two collide, locking horns and wrestling happily without holding back. For this reason one might detect just a whiff of Albert Ayler's good-natured punchiness, particularly in the basement of both horns; such energies were very much in the air during

the first half of the 1960s. Rather than comparing this date with the albums Hawkins shared with Ben Webster (1957), Henry "Red" Allen (1957), Pee Wee Russell (1961), or Duke Ellington (1962), one might refer instead to Hawk's wild adventures in Brussels during 1962 (see *Stash 538, Dali*) or Rollins' recordings from around this time period, particularly his *Impulse! East Broadway Run Down* album of 1965. Check out how the Hawk interacts with Rollins' drawn-out high-pitched squeaking during the last minute of "Lover Man." On *Sonny Meets Hawk!*, possibly more than at any other point in his long professional evolution, Hawkins was able to attain heights of unfettered creativity that must have felt bracing, even exhilarating. He obviously relished the opportunity to improvise intuitively in the company of a tenor saxophonist every bit as accomplished, resourceful, and inventive as he was.



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- 1 Yesterdays 5:12
 - 2 All The Things You Are 9:34
 - 3 Summertime 5:56
 - 4 Just Friends 4:37
 - 5 Lover Man 8:52
 - 6 At McKie's 7:01
- Total Time: 41:12

Transferred from 15 ips 2-track tape
Recorded by RCA records at RCA Victor Studios, New York
Engineer - Mickey Crofford, Paul Goodman Producer - George Avakian
Recorded July 15 & 18, 1963

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