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Mosaic Select: Duke Pearson (MS 008)

Text from mosaicrecords.com announcing this set:

"Duke Pearson was a man of depth and versatility as pianist, arranger, composer and producer. His watermark runs through Blue Note's output in the '60s. As a recording artist, he led lyrical trios, soulful sextets and a roaring big band. But his final Blue Note sessions (1968-70) showed his palate expanding to embrace Brazilian rhythms and melodies and impressionistic harmonies."

A MAN FOR ALL SESSIONS.

From the moment Duke Pearson arrived in New York in 1959, his compositions had immediate currency and impact. Duke was able make a composition harmonically interesting, melodically memorable and rhythmically in the groove. Compositions like "Jeannine" and "Chant" were turning heads. Those same qualities informed his lyrical piano style and stunning arranging abilities. His watermark runs through Blue Note's output in the '60s. As a recording artist, he led lyrical trios, soulful sextets and a roaring big band. But his final Blue Note sessions (1968-70) showed his palate expanding to embrace Brazilian rhythms and melodies and impressionistic harmonies.

NEW MUSICAL FRONTIERS.

The first album to mark a change in Pearson's direction was *The Phantom* which add two rhythm guitars and two percussionists to the rhythm section and featured Bobby Hutcherson's vibes and Jerry Dodgion's flute. Duke said at the time, "I was interested in trying to be somewhat more exotic than previously and in illuminating diverse moods within the exoticism...an evocative scope of colors." It also swings like hell. Subsequent sessions which were eventually issued in the '90s as *I Don't Care Who Knows It* add to that set-up Airto Morreira's percussion and more horns which Pearson arranges magnificently. Andy Bey sings the title tune, a Buddy Johnson obscurity.

It Only Happen With You moves further into the Brazilian realm with the presence of Hermeto Pascoal and, on three selections, Flora Purim. *How Insensitive* combines two interesting sessions. With Flora Purim and an all Brazilian rhythm section, Duke recorded lilting, swinging versions of four Brazilian compositions. With the New York Group Singers' Big Band, a 16-voice chorus led by Jack Manno, he recorded seven pieces, including a reprise of his "Christo Redentor" which launched the wordless choral craze six years earlier on Donald Byrd's *A New Perspective*.

The set closes with the rarest of all Duke Pearson albums, *Merry Ole Soul*. Pearson, Bob Cranshaw, Mickey Roker and Airto swing ten Christmas classics with taste and class. All in all, a successful, varied program of music from a consummate artist who rarely sat still. The set includes two previously unissued tracks.

Track Listing & Discography

DISC ONE

1. The Phantom (A)	10:18
2. Blues For Alvina (A)	3:08
3. Bunda Amerela (Little Yellow Streetcar) (A)	5:44
4. Los Ojos Alegres (A)	6:15
5. Say You're Mine (A)	5:36
6. The Moana Surf (A)	7:24
7. Theme From Rosemany's Baby (A)	3:16
8. I Don't Know (B)	7:00
9. Captain Bicardi (B)	5:40
10. Dialogo (B)	3:34
11. Xibaba (C)	6:32
12. Once I Loved (O Amor En Paz) (C)	5:22

DISC TWO

1. Gira, Girou (Round And Round) (D)	7:19
2. Hermeto (D)	5:40
3. Lost In The Stars (D)	3:28
4. It Could Only Happen With You (D)	3:26
5. Stormy (D)	3:26
6. Book's Bossa (D)	6:37
7. Emily (E)	3:59
8. Bloos (E)	7:38
9. I Don't Care Who Knows It (E)	3:10
10. A Beautiful Friendship (E)	6:37
11. Horn In (E)	5:51
12. Canto Ossanha (E)	6:36
13. Sandalia Dela (F)	3:25
14. Tears (F)	3:25
15. Lamento (F)	2:50
16. Upa Neguinho (F)	1:57

DISC THREE

1. Stella By Starlight (G)	4:39
2. Clara (G)	2:43
3. Give Me Some Love (G)	3:24
4. Christo Redentor (G)	3:53
5. Little Song (G)	2:53
6. My Love Waits (O Meu Amor Espera) (G)	4:34
7. How Insensitive (Insensalez) (G)	2:13
8. Sleigh Ride (H)	6:30

9. Little Drummer Boy (H)	5:40
10. Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas (H)	2:00
11. Jingle Bells (H)	5:09
12. Santa Claus Is Coming To Town (H)	4:05
13. Go Tell It To The Mountain (H)	3:42
14. Wassail Song (H)	3:00
15. Silent Night (H)	4:13
16. O Little Town Of Bethlehem (H)	1:15
17. Old Fashioned Christmas (H)	2:26

(A) THE PHANTOM Jerry Dodgion, flute, alto flute; Bobby Hutcherson, vibes; Sam Brown, Al Gafa, guitars, Duke Pearson, piano; Bob Cranshaw, bass; Mickey Roker, drums; Victor Pantojo, Carlos “Patato” Valdes, congas, percussion.

(B) I DON’T CARE WHO KNOWS IT Burt Collins, trumpet; Al Gibbons, flute; Jerry Dodgion, alto sax; Lew Tabackin, tenor sax; Bobby Hutcherson, vibes; Ralph Towner, Wally Richardson, guitars; Duke Pearson, electric piano; Bob Cranshaw, bass; Mickey Roker, drums; Airtto Moreira, percussion, vocals.

(C) I DON’T CARE WHO KNOWS IT Burt Collins, trumpet; Al Gibbons, flute; Jerry Dodgion, alto sax; Frank Foster, tenor sax; Bobby Hutcherson, vibes; Al Gafa, guitar; Duke Pearson, electric piano; Bob Cranshaw, bass; Mickey Roker, drums; Airtto Moreira, percussion, vocals; Stella Mars, vocals.

(D) IT COULD ONLY HAPPEN WITH YOU Burt Collins, Joe Shepley, trumpets; Kenny Rupp, trombone; Al Gibbons, alto flute, alto sax; Hermeto Pascoal, flute, guitar, bass; Theo, guitar; Duke Pearson, piano, electric piano; Bob Cranshaw, bass; Mickey Roker, drums, Flora Purim, vocals.

(E) I DON’T CARE WHO KNOWS IT Burt Collins, trumpet; Kenny Rupp, trombone; Jerry Dodgion, alto flute, alto sax; Frank Foster, tenor sax, alto clarinet; Lew Tabackin, tenor sax, flute; Duke Pearson, piano, electric piano; Ron Carter, bass; Mickey Roker, drums, Andy Bey, vocals.

(F) HOW INSENSITIVE Duke Pearson, piano; Dorio Ferreira, guitar, percussion; Bebeto Jose Souza, bass; Airtto Moreira, drums; Mickey Roker, percussion; Flora Purim, vocal.

(G) HOW INSENSITIVE Duke Pearson, piano, electric piano; Al Gafa, electric guitar; Bob Cranshaw, bass; Mickey Roker, Airtto Moreira, drums, percussion; New York Group Singers' Big Band; Jack Manno choral conductor.

(H) MERRY OLE SOUL Duke Pearson, piano, celeste; Bob Cranshaw, bass; Mickey Roker, drums; Airtto Moreira, percussion.

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