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Mosaic Select: Dizzy Reece (MS 011)

Text from mosaicrecords.com announcing this set:

"About two years ago, I sent some records of Dizzy Reece to Miles Davis. Miles must have been impressed. Because he took the trouble the next day to phone critic Nat Hentoff and say "there's a great trumpeter over in England: a guy who's got soul and originality and, above all, who's not afraid to blow with fire". Miles must have played those sides to a number of his friends. For when the invasion of Europe by American modern jazzmen began a few months afterwards, one of the first questions they asked on reaching Paris was "where's this cat, Dizzy Reece, that Miles told us about?"
Tony Hall, original liner notes Blues in Trinity

Born and raised in Jamaica, trumpeter Dizzy Reece first made a name for himself on the London jazz scene where he, Victor Feldman and Tubby Hayes played on each other's albums for Tempo in the mid fifties. His big, brilliant tone, personal way of phrasing and highly original modern compositions immediately attracted the attention of American artists like Miles Davis who became an early champion.

When Alfred Lion heard his work, he commissioned British producer Tony Hall to record a Reece album for Blue Note. Blues In Trinity featured two American guests (Donald Byrd and Art Taylor) to Reece's London band with Tubby Hayes. The results were so positive that Lion invited Reece to New York where he recorded Star Bright with the first-rate Blue Note cast of Hank Mobley, Wynton Kelly, Paul Chambers and Taylor. His third album for the label Soundin' Off was a quartet affair with Walter Bishop, Doug Watkins and Taylor that really focused on Reece's rich, lyrical ideas and big sound.

Dizzy recorded two more sessions for Blue Note in 1960 that were not issued until 1999 when they came out together in 1999 as Comin' On. Stanley Turrentine is featured on both. The Jazz Messengers rhythm section (Bobby Timmons, Jymie Merritt and Art Blakey) is on the first, while the trio of Duke Jordan, Sam Jones and Al Harewood plus the added tenor of Musa Kaleem are on the second. What is so striking about these dates beyond the level of the playing is Reece's compositions which are delightfully melodic and attractive but also very unusual and challenging. His Blue Note sessions are a high point in this underrated artist's long career.

Track Listing & Discography

DISC ONE

1. Blues In Trinity (A)	6:44
2. I Had The Craziest Dream (A)	3:02
3. Close-Up (A)	10:38
4. Shepherd's Serenade (S)	6:35
5. Color Blind (A)	5:59
6. 'Round About Midnight (A)	4:44
7. Eboo (A)	4:01
8. Just A Penny (A)	5:27
9. The Rake (B)	6:04
10. I'll Close My Eyes (B)	5:55
11. Groovesville (B)	8:05

DISC TWO

1. The Rebound (B)	6:46
2. I Wished On The Moon (B)	6:48
3. A Variation On Monk (B)	5:41
4. (I Don't Stand A) Ghost Of A Chance (C)	5:04
5. Once In A While (C)	7:54
6. Eb Pob (C)	7:27
7. Yesterdays (C)	7:44
8. Our Love Is Here To Stay (C)	7:08
9. Blue Streak (C)	6:21

DISC THREE

1. Ye Olde Blues (D)	6:40
2. The Case Of The Frightened Lover (D)	5:42
3. Tenderly (D)	9:02
4. Achmet (D)	8:28
5. The Story Of Love (D)	10:09
6. Sands (E)	6:00
7. Comin' On (E)	6:44
8. Goose Dance (E)	6:49
9. The Things We Did Last Summer (E)	6:17

(A) Dizzy Reece, Donald Byrd, trumpets; Tubby Hayes, tenor saxophone; Terry Shannon, piano; Lloyd Thompson, bass; Art Taylor, drums.

Recorded on August 24, 1958.

Originally issued as BLUES IN TRINITY (Blue Note BST 84006). *Eboo* and *Just a Penny* were originally issued on the CD version of the album (CD 132-32093)

(B) Dizzy Reece, trumpet; Bank Mobley, tenor saxophone; Wynton Kelly, piano; Paul Chambers, bass; Art Taylor, drums.

Recorded on November 19, 1959.

Originally issued as STAR BRIGHT (Blue Note BST 84023).

(C) Dizzy Reece, trumpet; Walter Bishop, Jr., piano; Doug Watkins, bass; Art Taylor, drums.

Recorded on May 12, 1960.

Originally issued as SOUNDIN' OFF (Blue Note BST 84033).

(D) Dizzy Reece, trumpet, congas; Stanley Turrentine, tenor saxophone; Bobby Timmons, piano; Jymie Merritt, bass; Art Blakey, drums.

Recorded on April 3, 1960.

Originally issued on COMIN' ON (Blue Note CD B2-22019).

(E) Dizzy Reece, trumpet; Stanley Turrentim tenor saxophone; Musa Kaleem, tenor saxophone, flute; Duke Jordan, piano; Sam Jones, bass; Al Harewood, drums.

Recorded on July 17, 1960.

Originally issued on COMIN'ON (Blue Note CD B2-22019).

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