

Charlie Parker in Sweden 1950



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SIDE 1

- 1 - ANTHROPOLOGY
- 2 - SCRAPPLE FROM THE APPLE
- 3 - EMBRACEABLE YOU
- 4 - COOL BLUES
- 5 - STAR EYES

SIDE 2

- 1 - ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE
- 2 - STRIKE UP THE BAND
- 3 - BODY AND SOUL
- 4 - FINE AND DANDY
- 5 - HOW HIGH THE MOON

Recorded November 24, 1950 at Halsingborg, Sweden.

Personnel:

Rolf Ericsson, Rowland Greenberg, trumpets; Charlie Parker, alto sax; Gosta Thesilius, tenor sax or piano; Lennart Nilsson, piano; Thore Jederby, bass; Jack Noren, drums.

Charlie Parker's 2nd trip to Europe was the climax to one of his more successful years as a modern jazz star and bandleader. He had formed a new quintet with Red Rodney on trumpet, toured for several months with Jazz At The Philharmonic, made a stint at Birdland, and even a tour of the South, with Rodney being billed as Albino Red and forced to sing the blues in order to pass for black!

The Scandinavian tour was a last-minute booking set up by agent Billy Shaw and was

made with trumpeter Roy Eldridge on hand as well. Both men played together and separately in concerts with hand-picked star Swedish jazzmen.

Despite the legendary reputation Bird had earned already, the Swedes did not turn out in record droves nor did they seem to derive any special influences from his playing there. There had not been time to prepare suitable press buildup for his arrival, so the various concerts while well attended were really made up of only the hippest Swedes and musicians. They were to a large extent under the influence as was most of the younger US jazzmen of the "cool" school begun auspiciously by Miles Davis' classic 1949 Capitol recordings in which Gerry Mulligan had part taken. This style was a reaction in one sense to Bird and Dizzy Gillespie's accomplishments which were really beyond attainment, and the new

movement was concerned with sound itself and soft muted colorings, something Charlie Parker could not fit into. This music pervaded Scandinavia in the early 50's.

This was a happy time though, because his reception and the general and genuine love for all jazz that he noticed in Sweden was something he rarely seemed to find back home.

Then too his accompanying musicians played way over their heads on that November day, Ericson in particular, attaining heights which must have well pleased him in later years. The blind pianist Lennart Nilsson comps on the last three selections on side two. There are no piano solos due to the lack of proper recording equipment available on that historic day, but nonetheless every lover of jazz can be grateful that these extremely rare items are once again available after so long a period of time.

CATALOG LISTING.....

Louis Armstrong In The Thirties
Art Tatum - Classic solos
Bob Crosby - Instrumentals 1940-2
Duke Ellington - 1941 Classics
Charlie Parker - 1949 Concert

Jack Teagarden - 1944 Big Band
Cab Calloway - Cruisin' With Cab
Seger Ellis - Choirs Of Brass 1937
George Lewis - Jam Session 1950
Eureka Brass Band - New Orleans Parade

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