

REMASTERED



Gentle Ben

Ben Webster

Tete Montolius Trio



DSD

Direct Stream Digital

DXD

Digital extreme Definition





Recording location: CASINO DE L'ALIANÇA DEL POBLE NOU, BARCELONA. NOVEMBER 28, 1972
Producer: ANTONIO ARMET

2xHD Mastering: RENÉ LAFLAMME
2xHD Executive Producer: ANDRÉ PERRY

It was Webster who gave the tenor sax the mission of keeping this difficult tradition alive. His style was not limited by eras and was able to insert itself into any context, although in the final fifteen years of his life he was most comfortable as the only wind instrument , accompanied by a basic trio. However, his recordings in quintets (with Thad Jones), sextets (with Benny Carter), septets (with Oliver Nelson) or accompanied by strings, as he was in the famous ballad sessions for the Verve label, are also extraordinary.

Despite being a respected, much-admired musician in his own country, and a point of reference for many of the emerging young performers –even for the most radical tendencies, such as the saxophonist Archie Shepp who still considers him his mentor– Webster left the United States in 1965 to settle in Europe, first in Copenhagen and later in Amsterdam. In both cities, he became a revered figure, and local fans deemed it a privilege to have him living amongst them. In Copenhagen, he used to play with the basic trio in the famous Café Montmartre, with Kenny Drew or Tete Montoliu at the keyboard. His understanding with Montoliu stemmed from some years earlier and the pianist attributed his final preparation as a jazz musician to Webster and Don Byas.

This record was made ten months before the saxophonist's death, during a visit to Tete Montoliu's Barcelona. There he met the pianist's regular trio and from their understanding sprang one of the finest moments recorded in Ben Webster's maturity. The huge amount of recorded material from the same period in Copenhagen and Amsterdam (where there are recordings of a recital he gave a week before his death) could lead one to think that they all have the same lively tone. However, the fact that Tete Montoliu was playing in his home town worked as a balance, and one could almost say that *Gentle Ben* is a shared work, as were Webster's famous sessions with Art Tatum twenty years previously. Both musicians understood each other so well and so deeply that it is hard to accept that these encounters, although they added up to many over the years, were actually more of a coincidence than planned. As far as Tete Montoliu is concerned, this recording is one of the best in his whole career, and whenever he is not fully in the spotlight, he absorbs Webster's projection of energy. Both create common lines that are more viable in friendship than in professional contacts.

Carlos Sampayo (1998)



THE 2xHD MASTERING PROCESS



2xHD is a record label which uses its proprietary system to process music masters originally recorded in analog or DSD or other format, to DSD in order to produce a unique listening experience.

The process uses a selection from a pool of high-end audiophile components and connectors. In some cases, even using battery power, so as to benefit from the cleanest power source possible. This variable equipment combination custom tailored to each project, creates the most accurate reproduction of the original recording, unveiling information previously masked by the use of EQ, transformers, patch bays, extended cable length etc. The selection of components is critical, as many A/D and D/A converters are unable to pierce through these filters that create a ceiling effect to the sound. The 2xHD system preserves the dynamics of the original master and proves an open feeling to the sound.

www.2xHD.com
Pure Emotion

Gentle Ben Ben Webster

1. THE MAN I LOVE (George & Ira Gershwin) 5:38
2. MY NEPHEW BENT (Ben Webster) 5:26
3. HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN BOING ON (George & Ira Gershwin) 8:06
4. SWEET GEORGIA BROWN (Bernie-Pinkard-Casey) 6:29
5. DON'T BLAME ME (Fields-McHugh) 8:03
6. DID YOU CALL (Ben Webster) 8:43
7. BARCELONA SHOUT (Ben Webster) 4:41
8. BEN' BLUES (Ben Webster) 9:05

BEN WEBSTER, sax

Tete Montoliu, piano - Peer Wyboris, drums - Eric Peter, bass