

JOHNNY HODGES

FEATURING
BEN
WEBSTER

INCLUDES
DUKE ELLINGTON
COMPOSITIONS



This album offers two jazz masters – masters of the saxophone – for the price of one. Ellingtonians both, **John Cornelius Hodges** and **Benjamin Francis Webster** were superbly lyrical and magnificently authoritative saxophonists whose extemporised compositions had a serenity and authority that are only to be found among the true elite of jazz musicians.

Possessor of the most beautiful tone ever heard in jazz, altoist Johnny Hodges formed his style early on and had little reason to change it through the decades. Hodges' luscious playing on ballads has never been topped.

Hodges (1907 – 1970) was best known for his solo work with Duke Ellington's Orchestra where he played lead alto in the saxophone section for many years and his playing became one of the identifying voices of the Ellington orchestra. He is considered one of the definitive alto saxophone players of the big band era (alongside Benny Carter). His unchanging style always managed to sound fresh.

Ben Webster (1909 – 1973) was, in fact, a great admirer of Hodges and it was Ben's view that no one in jazz played with more feeling. The warmth and passion that Hodges invested in his playing were in stark contrast to the demeanour of unremitting impassivity that he presented in the Duke Ellington saxophone section. Webster, also an emotional and intensely lyrical player managed a similar look of stolid inscrutability when he played. They are a well matched pair and their musical compatibility is vividly displayed on the first Hodges session here.

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FEATURING BEN WEBSTER



1. **Cambridge Blue** (a) 3:42
Johnny Hodges
2. **Brute's Roots** (a) 4:36
Johnny Hodges
3. **Bouncing with Ben** (a) 2:50
Johnny Hodges
4. **One for the Duke** (a) 5:15
Johnny Hodges
5. **Walkin' the Frog** (a) 5:49
Johnny Hodges
6. **Rabbit Pie** (a) 4:51
Johnny Hodges
7. **Jeep's Blues** (b) 2:36
Ellington - Hodges
8. **Doodi Woodi** (b) 4:07
Ellington
9. **The Jeep Is Jumpin'** (b) 6:04
Ellington - Hodges

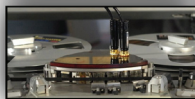
2xHD Mastering: René Laflamme
2xHD Executive Producer: André Perry
Album cover & insert artwork: André Perry
Graphics: Sylvie Labelle

(a) Johnny Hodges (alto sax); Ben Webster (trumpets); Lou Levy (piano); Herb Ellis (guitar); Wilfred Middlebrooks (bass); Gus Johnson (drums).
Recorded November 22nd & 23rd, 1960, at the Jazz Cellar, San Francisco

(b) Johnny Hodges and His Orchestra; Cat Anderson (trumpet); Lawrence Brown (trombone); Paul Gonsalves (trumpets); Russell Procope (alto sax, clarinet); Johnny Hodges (alto sax); Victor Feldman (piano); George Catlett (bass); Sam Woodyard (drums)
Recorded August 27, 1964



THE 2xHD FUSION MASTERING SYSTEM



2xHD is a record label which uses its proprietary system to process music masters originally recorded in analog 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 provides an open feeling to the sound.

2xHD was created by producer/studio owner André Perry and audiophile sound engineer René Laflamme, two dedicated music lovers determined to experience only the warmth and depth of the music without hearing the equipment.

2xHD Mastering by: René Laflamme
2xHD Executive Producer: André Perry

Feel the Warmth
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