

Brubeck Time

1954 was, indeed, Brubeck time. It was during this eventful year that pianist-composer Dave Brubeck (b. 1920), whose groups had been based in the San Francisco Bay Area from the mid-1940s into the mid-'50s, became a major jazz star.

By 1954, Brubeck and his alto saxophonist partner Paul Desmond had become two of the chief standard bearers of the new cool jazz. Their blithely swinging polytonality and classically influenced counterpoint won them

a large, loyal, and previously untapped audience on America's college campuses.

A number of Brubeck's successful recordings, initially for the small, independent Fantasy label and then for Columbia, one of the recording industry's giants, were done live at several colleges. In October 1954, however, while in New York for an engagement with his Quartet at the fashionable Basin Street East nightclub, Brubeck recorded an album in Columbia's studio for the first time. A month after these sterling sessions, he became only the second jazz musician to be the subject cover of a *Time* magazine cover story.

The program herein is heavily weighted toward standard tunes—albeit performed with the Quartet's hallmark contrapuntal panache and, for the most part, easy groove—as was Brubeck's wont. Desmond, who sounded less like the ubiquitous Charlie Parker than any other jazz altoist of his (or maybe any) generation, is in fine, airy fettle, his work markedly contrasting Brubeck's heavier chordal thrusts.

BRUBECK TIME is also notable for two originals: Desmond's blue-shaded "Audrey" (for the ever-graceful Miss Hepburn) and the leader's agitated "Stompin' For Mili," in honor of the celebrated photographer and jazz documentarian Gjon Mili.

For this expanded edition of **BRUBECK TIME**, which has been remixed and remastered, a number of newly published, first-rate photographs of the Quartet have been added. And Brubeck, who in 1998 celebrated his 50th anniversary as a recording artist, contributes his reminiscences of these sessions, which heralded **BRUBECK TIME** as something that would continue happily for decades to come.



ORIGINAL RECORDINGS PRODUCED
BY GEORGE AVAKIAN

- 1 **Audrey** 3:33
- 2 **Jeepers Creepers** 4:56
- 3 **Pennies From Heaven** 6:27
- 4 **Why Do I Love You?** 5:41
- 5 **Stompin' For Mili** 5:26
- 6 **Keepin' Out Of Mischief Now** 5:05
- 7 **A Fine Romance** 3:48
- 8 **Brother, Can You Spare A Dime?** 5:17



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