



Jazz players seldom reach the pop charts, but in 1977 Maynard Ferguson and his orchestra scored a Top 30 hit with their airborne rendition of "Gonna Fly Now," the theme from a similarly unlikely success: the Oscar-winning picture *Rocky*.

In the world of jazz, however, Ferguson (b. 1928) has been a major star for nearly 50 years, thanks to the dynamic bands he's led and his jaw-dropping technical facility as a soloist. Though equally masterful on the two specially constructed brass instruments, plus flugelhorn, featured on *Conquistador*, his ionospheric bursts on trumpet are the stuff of legend. Such lift-offs highlight "Gonna Fly Now" and the title track, which artfully melds Spanish flavors with the fusion and funk of the day.

Ferguson's core unit is a white-hot twelve-piece ensemble, and they're joined at times by such giants as guitarist George Benson and keyboardist Bob James. The band is also augmented at various junctures by an elite corps of jazz-studio pros, strings, and backing vocalists.

1. **GONNA FLY NOW** 4:22
2. **MISTER MELLOW** 6:27
3. **THEME FROM STAR TREK** 6:19
4. **CONQUISTADOR** 7:31
5. **SOAR LIKE AN EAGLE** 6:35
6. **THE FLY** 4:32

ORIGINAL RECORDINGS

PRODUCED BY JAY CHATTAWAY

THE MAYNARD FERGUSON BAND:

MIKE MIGLIORE, alto & soprano saxophones;

MARK COLBY, tenor and soprano saxophone;

BOBBY MILITELLO, baritone saxophone & flute;

STAN MARK, DENNIS NODAY, GUISEPPE LOON, JOE MOSELLO,

RON TOOLEY, trumpets;

RANDY PURCELL, ROGER HOMEFIELD, trombones;

PETER ERSKINE, drums;

GORDON JOHNSON, bass;

BIFF HANNON, keyboards;

TONY ROMANO, sounds.

Produced for Reissue by Bob Belden

Mastered by Mark Wilder & Seth Foster at Sony Music Studios,
New York

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