



THE JAZZMEN WITH JOE MCPHEE Nineteen Sixty-Six

Label

CORBETT VS. DEMPSEY

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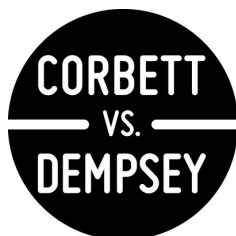
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Territory

NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE

Genre

FILE UNDER - J - JAZZ



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DESCRIPTION

Until now, the earliest recordings anyone has heard by **Joe McPhee** come from the period around his 1968 debut album, *Underground Railroad*. McPhee had just started playing tenor saxophone at that point. A couple of years earlier, the bassist featured on all of McPhee's early recordings, **Tyrone Crabb**, led a band of his own, the **Jazzmen**, in which McPhee was featured on his first instrument: trumpet. Indeed, McPhee was a trumpet legacy – his father was a trumpeter. In the mid-'60s, Joe was a serious young player with deep knowledge and an expansive ear. Performing around Poughkeepsie and across the Hudson Valley, the Jazzmen were one of the very first ensembles recorded by **Craig Johnson**, who would go on to form the CjR label expressly to release McPhee's music. The fledgling audio engineer was clearly learning the ropes when he documented this incredible 1966 performance, but despite a few excusable acoustic blemishes, it's a beautiful window into McPhee's trumpet playing, suggesting that, had he stuck to that instrument alone, he might well have been considered a major figure on the horn (of course, he is such a figure on the pocket trumpet); the opening track, a version of "One Mint Julep" as arranged by **Freddie Hubbard** (on his Blue Note record *Open Sesame*) shows McPhee's lithe stylings to good effect. McPhee's musical cosmology was much bigger than a single axe, however, as is evident on the sprawling second track, which, over the course of half-an-hour proceeds from an excoriating yowl to a version of **Miles Davis's** "Milestones" taken at a sweltering tempo. A portent of the free jazz to follow and a marker of McPhee's foundations in hard bop and soul jazz, 1966 features the entire reel-to-reel tape long thought lost, simply labeled: "Joe McPhee, 1966, trumpet." Featuring Joe McPhee (trumpet, recorder), **Harry Hall** (tenor saxophone, recorder), **Reggie Marks** (tenor saxophone, recorder), **Mike Kull** (piano), Tyrone Crabb (bass, bandleader), and **Charlie Benjamin** (drums).

TRACKLISTING

01. One Mint Julep (9:58)
02. Killed in Vietnam/Milestones (34:06)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Until now, the earliest recordings anyone has heard by **Joe McPhee** come from the period around his 1968 debut album, *Underground Railroad*.
- The bassist featured on all of McPhee's early recordings, **Tyrone Crabb**, led a band of his own, the **Jazzmen**, in which McPhee was featured on his first instrument: trumpet.
- Recorded by **Craig Johnson**, this incredible 1966 performance is a beautiful window into McPhee's trumpet playing, suggesting that, had he stuck to that instrument alone, he might well have been considered a major figure on the horn.

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