



ALBERT AYLER

Bells/Prophecy: Expanded Edition

Label
ESP-DISK

Format
2CD
Catalog Number
ESPDISK 4076CD

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825481407625



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NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE

Genre
FILE UNDER - A - JAZZ

ESP-DISK'

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DESCRIPTION

Albert Ayler's trio with **Gary Peacock** and **Sunny Murray** is best known for the July 10, 1964, recording of *Spiritual Unity* (ESPDISK 1002CD), the album that made both Ayler and ESP-Disk' famous when it was released in 1965. A decade after that, in 1975, ESP-Disk' also released, as *Prophecy* (ESP-3030), the first documentation of the group, recorded a month before *Spiritual Unity* by Canadian poet **Paul Haines** at a concert at a 91st Street club. These Cellar Café recordings are augmented here beyond the five cuts from the original *Prophecy* release by another six tracks from the same gig. (This edition uses the more accurate titles found on their release in the 2004 *Holy Ghost* box set on Revenant, rather than the fanciful titles from their 1996 first issue, as *Albert Smiles with Sunny* on the German label InRespect. Note also that "Wizard" on CD 1 and "The Wizard" on CD 2 are different compositions.)

1965 yielded Ayler treasures as his style shifted. The transitional *Bells* was just under 20 minutes, originally released in 1965 as one side of a clear vinyl LP, with the other side empty of music. It was recorded at a May 1, 1965, Town Hall concert of ESP artists, displaying Ayler's new group. Murray remained, Albert's brother **Donald** joined on trumpet, and **Lewis Worrell** held down the bass slot. The denser sound of "Bells" shows Ayler moving toward the bigger sonic statement made on *Spirits Rejoice* (ESPDISK 1020CD/LP, 1965), his September 23, 1965, Judson Hall session. By the way, "Bells" as heard here is not, in fact, a single composition; rather, it is a medley moving from "Holy Ghost" to an unnamed theme and then into "Bells" proper. ESP-Disk' founder **Bernard Stollman** was so excited by "Bells" that he released it on one side of an LP without delaying to record additional music to fill the other side. "Bells" also happens to be the recorded debut of saxophonist **Charles Tyler**, who would go on to record for ESP as a leader (*Charles Tyler Ensemble* (ESPDISK 1029CD, 1966), and *Eastern Man Alone* (ESPDISK 1059CD, 1967)).

TRACKLISTING

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.01. Bells | 2.01. Spirits |
| 1.02. Spirits | 2.02. Saints |
| 1.03. Wizard | 2.03. Ghosts |
| 1.04. Ghosts, First Variation | 2.04. The Wizard |
| 1.05. Prophecy | 2.05. Children |
| 1.06. Ghosts, Second Variation | 2.06. Spirits (Theme) |

HIGHLIGHTS

- Expanded, combined edition of **Albert Ayler's** *Bells* (recorded in 1965) and *Prophecy* (the first documentation of Ayler's trio with **Gary Peacock** and **Sunny Murray**, recorded in 1964).
- The five cuts from the original 1975 *Prophecy* release are augmented here by another six tracks from the same 1964 gig, recorded a month before Ayler's seminal *Spiritual Unity* (ESPDISK 1002CD) by Canadian poet **Paul Haines** at a concert at a 91st Street club.
- The denser sound of "Bells" shows Ayler moving toward the bigger sonic statement made on *Spirits Rejoice* (ESPDISK 1020CD/LP, 1965); ESP-Disk' founder **Bernard Stollman** was so excited by "Bells" that he originally released it in 1965 on one side of an LP without delaying to record additional music to fill the other side.
- Personnel: 1.01.: Albert Ayler, tenor saxophone; **Donald Ayler**, trumpet; **Charles Tyler**, alto saxophone; **Lewis Worrell**, bass; Sunny Murray, drums. Recorded live at Town Hall, New York City, May 1, 1965. 1.02-2.06.: Albert Ayler, tenor saxophone; Gary Peacock, bass; Sunny Murray, percussion. Recorded live at Cellar Café, New York City, June 14, 1964.
- "As a package, *Bells and Prophecy* make for a highly intense, utterly engaging, and even awe-inspiring listen." —**Thom Jurek**, AllMusic
- "... tenor man Albert Ayler has probably, next to **Coltrane** and **Cecil Taylor**, held the most sway on the direction of improvisation from a 'thematic' or 'phrase-based' approach to that of a purely sonic one." —**Clifford Allen**, All About Jazz

Also available:

(ESPDISK 1002CD) Albert Ayler Trio: *Spiritual Unity* CD [UPC #825481010023]
(ESPDISK 1020CD) Albert Ayler: *Spirits Rejoice* CD [UPC #825481010207]
(ESPDISK 1020LP) Albert Ayler: *Spirits Rejoice* LP [UPC #825481102018]
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