



SUN RA Live in Roma 1980

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DESCRIPTION

Born **Herman Poole Blount** in Alabama during 1914, **Sun Ra** first emerged on the Chicago jazz scene during the late 1940s. One of the great avant-garde composers of his generation – leading the way on piano, organ, and (eventually) synthesizer – beginning in the mid-1950s and lasting until his death in 1993, led the **Arkestra**, a band through which a near countless number of important artists passed and collaborated with, and many remained for the duration of their careers, notably **Marshall Allen**, **John Gilmore**, and **June Tyson**. Known for their wild costumes and theatrics, Ra's eccentric image and claims that he was from Saturn was deeply political, imagining an alternate social order, history, and future for African Americans that rests as a pioneering force in the Afro-Futurist movement. Recorded live at Teatro Giulio Cesare on March 28, 1980, comprising an astounding 27 compositions, including the highly celebrated "Astro Black," "Mr. Mystery," "Romance of Two Planets," "Space Is the Place," "We Travel the Spaceways," and "Calling Planet Earth," over six vinyl sides. High among the greatest live gigs by the Arkestra captured on tape, carefully mastered by **Matt Bordin** at Outside Inside Studio, *Live in Rome 1980* is a near perfect snapshot of the band's versatility and range, including many of their most notably and famous songs, as well as striking renditions of the **Horace Henderson** penned **Benny Goodman** number "Big John's Special," **Fletcher Henderson**'s "Yeah Man!," and "Limehouse Blues," displaying Ra's willingness to address and rework the entire, diverse history of jazz in a single go. Heard in its totality, perhaps what makes *Live in Rome 1980* most striking is the way in which the concert plays out. Roughly the first half encounters the band locked in some of the most out-there, free jazz fire that can be imagined, weaving a startling sense of interplay and furious energy into a brilliant tapestry of writhing sonority, the likes of which were only really achieved by this band. The second half, with only moments of exception that return to the furious energy of the first, is a very different affair, easy toward the vocal standards, led by June Tyson's vocals and the joyous collective chanting of the band, for which they have become so widely celebrated, threading the sounds of off-kilter big band swing with heavy grooves and imagines of outer space.

TRACKLISTING

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|---|--|
| A1. Kora and Drum Intro | D1. Watusa |
| A2. Pleiades | D2. Lights on a Satellite |
| A3. Cosmo-Communication | D3. Spontaneous Simplicity |
| B1. Tapestry from an Asteroid | E1. Enlightenment |
| B2. Astro Black/The Strange Worlds in My Mind | E2. Space Is the Place/We Travel the Spaceways |
| B3. The World Is Waiting for the Sunrise/Mr. Mystery | E3. Nothing Is |
| B4. Discipline 27 | E4. Children of the Sun |
| B5. Romance of Two Planets | F1. Calling Planet Earth/On Jupiter |
| C1. Blues Roma | F2. Hit That Jive Jack (John Alstone , Campbell Tolbert) |
| C2. Big John's Special (Horace Henderson) | F3. King Porter Stomp (Jelly Roll Morton) |
| C3. Yeah Man! (Sissle-Henderson-Robinson) | F4. Sun Ra and His Band from Outer Space |
| C4. Springtime Again | |
| C5. Limehouse Blues (Philip Braham-Douglas Furber) | |

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Sun Ra and his Arkestra**, recorded live at Teatro Giulio Cesare on March 28, 1980, comprising an astounding 27 compositions.
- Roughly the first half encounters the band locked in out-there, free jazz fire, while the second half is led by June Tyson's vocals and the joyous collective chanting of the band.
- High among the greatest live gigs by the Arkestra captured on tape, carefully mastered by **Matt Bordin** at Outside Inside Studio.

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