



NATURE'S CONSORT

Nature's Consort

Label

AGUIRRE RECORDS

Format

LP

Catalog Number

ZORN 084LP

UPC

769791986947



Store Price

\$23.39

Release Date

12/06/24

Territory

NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE

Genre

FILE UNDER - N - JAZZ



DESCRIPTION

Obscure and outstanding free jazz album reissued for the first time since its original release in 1969. Old-style gatefold LP, with liner notes by **Ed Hazell**. In the late 1960s, young jazz musician **Bobby Naughton**, a keyboardist and vibraphonist, faced significant challenges as he sought to record his first album. With major record labels and jazz clubs catering only to big names, Naughton and other creative musicians of his generation found themselves sidelined by the mainstream music industry. They turned to self-reliance and self-production, becoming part of a movement of independent musicians. Naughton's debut album, *Nature's Consort*, was a DIY effort in every sense – recorded on home equipment and featuring a hand-printed woodblock cover. The album was distributed independently at concerts and by mail, receiving little attention initially, but over the years it gained a reputation as a rare, sought-after artifact of the period. Though recorded during an outdoor concert in Connecticut, *Nature's Consort* reflected the "loft jazz" scene in New York City. This avant-garde jazz movement centered around musicians who lived and played in loft spaces in lower Manhattan. Naughton commuted from his home in Southbury, Connecticut, to play with his bandmates **Mark Whitecage**, **Mario Pavone**, and **Laurence Cook** in New York's lofts. These musicians regularly performed at venues like Studio We, a key gathering spot for free-form jazz, where musicians could experiment and develop their sound, often with no audience present. Naughton's journey into jazz was a winding one. Originally from Boston, he played rockabilly and blues-rock before transitioning into free jazz. Inspired by avant-garde artists like **Carla Bley** and **Paul Bley**, Naughton sought to explore new forms of music that went beyond traditional jazz structures. His bandmates, Mark Whitecage and Mario Pavone, were both deeply affected by the death of **John Coltrane** in 1967, which prompted them to quit their day jobs, attend Coltrane's funeral, and move to New York to pursue jazz full-time. *Nature's Consort* was a collective project, with band members sharing equally in any profits. However, Naughton was the driving force behind the group's creative direction. He composed much of the original material and selected pieces by **Ornette Coleman** and Carla Bley for the band's repertoire. Jazz critic **Nat Hentoff** praised the album for its "high-risk improvisation" and the musicians' ability to anticipate each other's moves. Though *Nature's Consort* received little press at the time, it has since been recognized as a significant early document of the loft jazz era, representing Naughton's disciplined, improvisational approach to music.

TRACKLISTING

- A1. Around Again (7:20)
- A2. Nital Rock (11:30)
- B1. Taking Steps (5:30)
- B2. Snow (7:30)
- B3. From The Center (5:37)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Obscure and outstanding free jazz album reissued for the first time since its original release in 1969. Old-style gatefold LP, with liner notes by **Ed Hazell**.
- Jazz musician **Bobby Naughton**, a keyboardist and vibraphonist, turned to self-production for his debut album, *Nature's Consort*, which was a DIY effort in every sense – recorded on home equipment and featuring a hand-printed woodblock cover.
- Though recorded during an outdoor concert in Connecticut, *Nature's Consort* reflected the "loft jazz" scene in New York City.
- Jazz critic **Nat Hentoff** praised the album for its "high-risk improvisation" and the musicians' ability to anticipate each other's moves.

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