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**Jazz at Lincoln Center Radio
Coltrane and Hartman: They Say It's Wonderful
Program #50, Airdate: 9/4/08**

1) Background music: "They Say It's Wonderful," Coltrane and Hartman

2) Vox: Billy Banks

"The original recording – John Coltrane and Johnny Hartman – is I think one of the greatest recordings ever made in any type of music. It's such a powerful work that it's hard to even talk about it. And to recreate that, takes a lot of audacity. You have to be really bold to try to reproduce perfection."

3) Gordon:

RECREATING SONGS THAT HAVE BEEN DONE FLAWLESSLY MIGHT SEEM AUDACIOUS. BUT IF TENOR SAXOPHONISTS STOPPED PLAYING SONGS JUST BECAUSE COLTRANE PERFORMED THEM PERFECTLY, DOZENS OF TUNES WOULD NEVER BE HEARD LIVE AGAIN. AND CLOSING OFF POSSIBILITIES WAS THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT JOHN COLTRANE WAS ALL ABOUT.

ON THIS EPISODE OF JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER, WE'LL HEAR TENOR SAXOPHONIST TODD WILLIAMS AND VOCALIST KEVIN MAHOGANY COMBINE AUDACITY AND HUMILITY -- PERFORMING SONGS MADE FAMOUS IN A LEGENDARY SESSION WITH JOHN COLTRANE AND JOHNNY HARTMAN.

IN FOR WYNTON MARSALIS, I'M WYCLIFFE GORDON, AND WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

4) Gordon:

LET'S JOIN THE THE BAND WARMING UP IN THE ALLEN ROOM.
THIS IS A TUNE THAT WAS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE COLTRANE
REPERTOIRE IN THE EARLY 60S: MONGO SANTAMARIA'S "AFRO-BLUE."

5) Music: "Afro Blue"

6) Gordon:

MONGO SANTAMARIA'S "AFRO-BLUE." PERFORMED BY TODD WILLIAMS
ON SAXOPHONE, HERLIN RILEY ON DRUMS, AND REGINALD VEAL ON
BASS.

7) Background music: "Nancy with the Laughing Face," John Coltrane

8) Gordon:

FAMOUS FOR PERFORMANCES THAT BREWED AND BOILED LIKE A
VAST MUSICAL STORM, JOHN COLTRANE'S QUARTET COULD ALSO PLAY
WITH DELICATE BEAUTY. SO IN 1963, WHEN PRODUCER BOB THIELE
SUGGESTED THAT THE SAXOPHONIST RECORD STANDARDS WITH
BALLADEER JOHNNY HARTMAN, COLTRANE WAS ENTHUSIASTIC.

HARTMAN WASN'T SO SURE. HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW WELL HE'D FIT
WITH THE BAND -- THEY'D NEVER HAD A SINGER BEFORE. BUT HE
HADN'T BEEN RECORDING AS MUCH AS HE'D HAVE LIKED, SO HE GAVE
THE PROJECT A TRY.

ON THEIR ALBUM YOU CAN HEAR HARTMAN'S SMOOTH, FULL
TENOR BLEND BEAUTIFULLY WITH COLTRANE'S RESTRAINED BUT
INTENSE BALLAD-PLAYING.

VOCALIST KEVIN MAHOGANY WILL TAKE HARTMAN'S PART AT THE MICROPHONE WITH THE ALL TOO RARE PLEASURE OF TODD WILLIAMS ON TENOR SAXOPHONE. THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS TUNES FROM THAT ALBUM: "MY ONE AND ONLY LOVE."

9) Music: "My One and Only Love"

10) Gordon:

KEVIN MAHOGANY SINGING "MY ONE AND ONLY LOVE," TODD WILLIAMS, TENOR SAXOPHONE. THE TUNE IS BY ROBERT MELLIN AND GUY WOOD.

11) Background Music: Early Johnny Hartman

12) Gordon:

JOHNNY HARTMAN BEGAN SINGING IN THE 1940S WITH EARL HINES. LIKE JOHN COLTRANE, HARTMAN HAD A STINT WITH THE DIZZY GILLESPIE BAND LATE IN THAT DECADE – IN FACT, THE TWO SHARED A BANDSTAND ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION, ALTHOUGH NEVER MET.

HARTMAN RECORDED FREQUENTLY WITH OTHERS IN THESE YEARS, BUT DIDN'T PUT OUT HIS FIRST LP UNTIL 1956 BUT THE HUGE HITS OF HIS FAVORITE SINGER, FRANK SINATRA ELUDED HIM. ONLY WITH THAT COLTRANE ALBUM IN 1963 DID JOHNNY HARTMAN BECOME THE JAZZ EQUIVALENT OF A HOUSEHOLD NAME.

HERE IN THE ALLEN ROOM KEVIN MAHOGANY AND TODD WILLIAMS OFFER ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THAT ALBUM, BILLY STRAYHORN'S TONE POEM CALLED "*LUSH LIFE*."

13) Music: "Lush Life"

14) Gordon:

BILLY STRAYHORN'S "LUSH LIFE." SINGER KEVIN MAHOGANY AND SAXOPHONIST TODD WILLIAMS. ERIC REED PLAYED PIANO, WITH HERLIN RILEY DRUMS, AND REGINALD VEAL ON BASS. AND YOU CAN HARDLY GETR A BETTER RHYTMH SECTION, BELIEVE ME. I'VE PLAYED WITH THOSE MEN FOR 16 .

15) Background music: "Greensleeves," John Coltrane

16) Gordon:

JOHNNY HARTMAN AND JOHN COLTRANE RECORDED TOGETHER DURING WHAT'S KNOWN AS THE SAXOPHONIST'S "MIDDLE PERIOD." IT'S ASSOCIATED WITH SIMPLER, REPETITIVE SONG FORMS, THE OPEN HARMONIES OF PIANIST MCCOY TYNER, AND ENDLESSLY CREATIVE GROUP INTERPLAY. PEOPLE DISAGREE ABOUT JUST WHEN "MIDDLE COLTRANE" BEGINS- BUT YOU CAN HEAR THE SEEDS OF THE STYLE IN COLTRANE'S 1960 COMPOSITION "EQUINOX" WE'LL HEAR TODD WILLIAMS TACKLE IT NOW:

17) Music: "Equinox"

18) Gordon:

TODD WILLIAMS ON JOHN COLTRANE'S "EQUINOX." ERIC REED WAS ON PIANO, HERLIN RILEY ON DRUMS, AND REGINALD VEAL ON BASS.

19) Gordon:

YOU CAN HEAR THIS PROGRAM AGAIN AND FIND MORE ABOUT JAZZ HEROES LIKE JOHNNY HARTMAN IN THE ERTEGUN JAZZ HALL OF FAME AT J.A.L C. DOT ORG.

HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE YOU CAND FIND THERE.

19b) Music: AFAR

19c) Vox: Che

"I'm Che. I play drums for the band AFAR. Join me on The Rhythm Road: American Music Abroad"

19d) Announcer:

THIS YEAR TEN QUARTETS PLAYING JAZZ, URBAN /HIP HOP AND AMERICAN ROOTS MUSIC WILL HAVE THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME ON THE RHYTHM ROAD: AMERICAN MUSIC ABROAD

19e) Vox: Che

"Doing this program one thing you learn very fast is people are people. No matter where you go you can find some type of thing you have in common with another person. What this program allows is to break down those walls. Even though there may be a language barrier. But there is some common ground"

19f) Announcer:

IN THE SPIRIT OF LOUIS ARMSTRONG AND DUKE ELLINGTON, JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER AND THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, WILL BE SENDING THESE MUSICIANS AROUND THE WORLD TO SWING IN SENEGAL, GROOVE IN GUATAMALA AND TEACH IN TURKMENISTAN.

19g) Vox: Che

"It's not just us giving to these other people in these different countries, they're giving us something in return."

19h) Announcer:

FIND OUT MORE AT J A L C (DOT) ORG (SLASH) THE ROAD.

20) Gordon:

JUST AHEAD WE'LL BE ON GREEN DOLPHIN STREET WITH MORE OF THE SUPERB MUSIC OF TODD WILLIAMS AND KEVIN MAHOGANY. IT'S JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER. IN FOR WYNTON MARSALIS. I'M WYCLIFFE GORDON.

21) Midbreak: "You Are Too Beautiful," Hartman/Coltrane

22) Background music: "Nature Boy," Johnny Hartman

23) Gordon:

IN SPITE OF THE SUCCESS OF THEIR COLLABORATION, JOHN COLTRANE AND JOHNNY HARTMAN NEVER GOT TO REPEAT THEIR MUSICAL ENCOUNTER. COLTRANE REFUSED TO REST ON ANY ONE CONCEPT FOR VERY LONG. AND HARTMAN SUDDENLY FOUND HIMSELF WITH A FLOOD OF NEW RECORDING PROJECTS.

THIS IS A STANDARD THAT HARTMAN RECORDED IN 1972 WITH JAPANESE TRUMPETER TEREMASA HINO IN 1972. KEVIN MAHOGANY "ON GREEN DOLPHIN STREET."

24) Music: "On Green Dolphin Street"

25) Gordon:

KEVIN MAHOGANY SINGING THE STANDARD BY BRONISLAU KAPER. "ON GREEN DOLPHIN STREET," TODD WILLIAMS PLAYED TENOR WITH HERLIN RILEY ON PERCUSSION, ERIC REED ON PIANO, AND REGINALD VEAL ON BASS.

IN 1972, ON A TOUR IN JAPAN, JOHNNY HARTMAN RECORDED AN ALBUM CALLED "TRANE'S FAVORITE." THAT TRIBUTE TO COLTRANE, ALLOWED HARTMAN TO PERFORM SONGS ASSOCIATED WITH 'TRANE, IN A PERSONAL WAY. KEVIN MAHOGANY CONTINUES THAT TRADITION OF MUSICAL REMEMBRANCE WITH HIS READING OF "NATURE BOY."

26) Music: "Nature Boy"

27) Gordon:

KEVIN MAHOGANY ON EDEN AHBEZ'S "NATURE BOY." WITH TENOR FROM TODD WILLIAMS.

28) Background music: "Summertime," Johnny Hartman

29) Gordon:

AFTER THE DEATH OF JOHN COLTRANE, COUNTLESS MUSICIANS FACED THE SAME DILEMMA AS JOHNNY HARTMAN. HOW TO SHOW LOVE AND ADMIRATION FOR THE SAXOPHONIST, WITHOUT RESORTING TO IMITATION? THE BASSIST MICKEY BASS – WHO PLAYED WITH ART BLAKEY -- HONORED COLTRANE BY WRITING A SIMPLE, TUNE WITH A LOT OF ROOM FOR HARMONIC EXPLORATION. HE CALLED IT "ONE FOR TRANE" – AND IT MAKES FOR A MONSTROUS CLOSING NUMBER BY OUR QUARTET.

30) Music: "One for Trane"

31) Gordon:

"ONE FOR TRANE" – SAXOPHONIST TODD WILLIAMS, PIANIST ERIC REED, DRUMMER HERLIN RILEY, AND BASSIST REGINALD VEAL –

HONORING JOHN COLTRANE AND RAISING THE ROOF OF THE ALLEN ROOM IN THE HOUSE OF SWING – FREDERICK P. ROSE HALL.

EARLIER WE HEARD SINGER KEVIN MAHOGANY JOIN THE QUARTET TO INTERPRET SONGS FROM THE HISTORIC COLLABORATION OF JOHN COLTRANE – JOHNNY HARTMAN COLLABORATION.

JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER RADIO IS PRODUCED AT MURRAY STREET. THIS EDITION WAS WRITTEN BY ANDREW ROSENBLUM.

OUR PRODUCERS ARE DAVID GOREN AND STEVE RATHE WITH ALEXA LIM. ORIGINAL SESSIONS RECORDED BY ROB MACOMBER AND JEFF ROTHMAN AT XM PRODUCTIONS/EFFANEL MUSIC. THANKS TO MATTHEW LONG-MIDDLETON AND CRAIG BRAY.

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER IS ADRIAN ELLIS. CAT HENRY SUPERVISES OUR BROADCASTS AND RECORDINGS. THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR IS WYNTON MARSALIS. IN FOR WYNTON, I'M WYCLIFFE GORDON. THANKS FOR JOINING US.