

With this collection of performances recorded at jazz concerts at three Midwestern universities in early 1954, the Dave Brubeck quartet makes a smashing debut on Columbia Records.

These recordings bubble with exuberance; they swing like mad, they are packed with fantastic ideas, they exhibit an incredible cohesion among four sympathetic musicians of consummate skill. Further, in each case they present the quartet before a highly appreciative audience, for whom they boys are obviously knocking themselves out.

But the important reason for their musical success is in the fact that each of these performances is a completely shaped work of art, which every part (vertically as well as linearly) solidly integrated as to form-in all segments as well in total.

This is achieved by a kind of teamwork which is without parallel in the entire field of music. Except for set beginnings and ends (and sometimes the latter aren't even set at all, as some of these performances show), the Brubeck Quartet improvise with freedom and daring such as few musicians have ever attempted; yet the music of the group is of an integrated quality such as few musicians have ever produced. It is an axiom in jazz that no two improvisations on a given tune are the same; in Brubeck's case, this is so true as to be staggering.



1. **BALCONY ROCK** 11:55
2. **OUT OF NOWHERE** 8:04
3. **LE SOUK** 4:42
4. **TAKE THE "A" TRAIN** 6:17
5. **THE SONG IS YOU** 5:38
6. **DON'T WORRY 'BOUT ME** 8:47
7. **I WANT TO BE HAPPY** 6:36

Original Recordings Produced by George Avakian
Digital Producer: Mike Berniker
Digitally Remastered by Larry Keyes
Mastered by Vlado Meller
All digital engineering and mastering at the CBS Records Studios, New York
Jazz Masterpieces Series Coordination: Mike Berniker, Amy Herot, and Gary Pachero
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