



By 1970, when the relentlessly innovative trumpeter-bandleader Miles Davis recorded the music herein, jazz-rock fusion was once and for all the idiom through which he chose to communicate. Certainly he'd been moving in that direction during the previous two years on the groundbreaking albums *In A Silent Way* and *Bitches Brew* (the latter initially issued as a two-LP set). *Brew* had rocked harder than the more ethereal *Silent Way*, but *Jack Johnson* left both in the dust. For *Jack*, Davis (1926-1991) made an audacious move, from jazz-rock to something else again: rock-jazz. A lifelong boxing fan who often worked out in the ring himself, Davis paid tribute to the first African-American heavyweight champion via an album comprised of just two selections, "Right Off" and "Yesternow." Each filled an LP side with electrifying sounds for a superb documentary film directed by the late William Cayton, later to become Mike Tyson's co-manager.

In Davis' corner are some of the hottest young players of the day, including keyboardist Herbie Hancock, soprano saxophonist Steve Grossman, guitarist John McLaughlin (whose blazing spot at the top of the blues "Right Off" sets the stage for the trumpeter's all-time, hardest-rocking solo), electric bassist Michael Henderson, and power-drummer Billy Cobham. Davis and crew punch out the jams that, with producer Teo Macero cutting and pasting masterfully, ultimately yield the knockout that is *A Tribute To Jack Johnson*.

1. **RIGHT OFF** 26:54

2. **YESTERNOW** 25:36

Miles Davis — Trumpet
 Steve Grossman — Soprano
 Saxophone
 Herbie Hancock — Organ
 John McLaughlin — Guitar
 Michael Henderson — Electric Bass
 Billy Cobham — Drums

Produced by
 Teo Macero
 Original Engineer:
 Stan Tonkel

This package consists of previously
 released material.

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