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The Miles Davis Quintet Featuring John Coltrane

All Of You: The Last Tour 1960





John Coltrane

Offering: Live At
Temple University

RESONANCE

Blue valentines

The relatively short career of jazz legend John Coltrane is bookended by these two multi-disc live releases. The 1960 set by the Miles Davis Quintet, with Coltrane on tenor sax, is the same band that cut much of Davis' revered 1959 album, Kind Of Blue. That LP's standout vehicle, "So What," is taken double-time here before an appreciative crowd that filled a large performance hall—this back in the day when Davis played the Black Hawk in San Francisco, a grimy little joint with a seating capacity of about 75. The most welcome track has Coltrane, who never spoke onstage, asked by an interviewer if his music was angry. "Maybe it sounds angry because I'm trying so many things at one time," says Coltrane, "I have this whole bag I'm trying to sort through and get to the one essential."

By 1966's fiery set from Temple University, the entire personnel of Coltrane's classic, early-'60s quartet has been replaced: Alice Coltrane on piano for McCoy Tyner, Sonny Johnson on bass for Jimmy Garrison, and Rashied Ali on drums for Elvin Jones—with Pharoah Sanders added on blistering tenor sax. A gravity-defying 23-minute take of "My Favorite Things" shows how far Coltrane had come in such a short time. —Jud Cost