

THE
"SHEPHERD"
SWINGS
AGAIN
Moe Koffman Quartet



leichman/ photo: varon



JUBILEE JLP-1074
Superlaphonic Hi-Fi

THE "SHEPHERD" SWINGS AGAIN

THE MOE KOFFMAN QUARTET

- Performer
- Performance
- Perfection

Featuring Moe Koffman: Flute, Alto Sax—Ron Rully: Drums—Hugh Currie: Bass—Ed Bickert: Guitar

When *The Swingin' Shepherd Blues* started to move up the Hit Parade early this year, the most surprised person was Moe Koffman, the man who wrote it.

"It's a blues, a jazz tune," said Moe, but the Top Thirty types weren't listening. This was a tune that reached them.

It was just about a year ago that *The Swingin' Shepherd Blues* made its debut in Moe's first Jubilee album, *Cool and Hot Sax*. That LP also included some other Koffman originals but it was *The Shepherd* (quickly and fancifully titled by Morty Palitz, Jubilee's Vice President who felt it gave him "a pastoral message") that inexplicably caught on with disc jockeys and Hit Parade followers.



Almost immediately, Moe was whisked off on hurried junkets to disc jockeys in Boston, Detroit, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Buffalo and New York.

In between trains and planes, he was kept on the run filling commitments as a much-in-demand musician on network programs out of Toronto's Canadian Broadcasting Corporation television studios.

Like so many experienced musicians in the big broadcasting centers, Moe's days are busy ones (he not only plays flute but can switch with ease from alto to tenor saxophone to clarinet) but there are times when he likes to ease up, to relax and play solos that last more than a few bars.

He found the answer in after hours jazz haunts, the very environment where the strains of *The Swingin' Shepherd* first floated through to the public. Right from the beginning, it had its listeners whistling and humming the melody.

Jazz fans enjoyed it as much as the kids who were to put it on the Hit Parade.

(Or perhaps *The Shepherd's* success on the best seller lists is a happy indication that, out of the cacophony created by twanging guitars and off-key voices, it answered a need for something simple but swinging.)

Whatever the reason, it is the first time that a single disc, originally released in a jazz album, has actually made the Hit Parade.

For all we know, some of the numbers in this album may travel the same road.

Out of the eight selections you will hear, five are Koffman originals: *Flute Salad*, *Bermuda Schwartz*, *Cloud Nine*, *Sure It Is* and *Marty's Morgue*.

And again Moe is featured on both flute and alto saxophone. On *Flute Salad* Moe plays flute (what else?) as well as on *Alone Together*, fraught with jungle drums, and Sonny Rollins' *Doxy*, marking, probably, the first time that this number has been given a flute treatment. The flute also predominates on *Marty's Morgue*, Moe's musical compliment to Marty Faye's show of the same name on Chicago's WAAF.

As for the rest, Moe switches to alto saxophone. *Cloud Nine* is an

up-tempo swinger. *Bermuda Schwartz* and *Sure It Is* both move at an easy going medium tempo.

This LP also includes another original: *What Can You Do*, penned by the Quartet's 24 year old drummer, Ron Rully.

Besides Rully, the group includes Hugh Currie, a bassist who played with such top British orchestras as Tony Crombie and Jack Parnell, and the Ronnie Scott Quintet on a 1955-56 overseas jaunt.

The guitarist is British Columbia-born Ed Bickert whose considerable talents prompted Tal Farlow to place him alongside Charlie Christian and Jim Hall in a Favorite Musicians' Poll.

Moe, it might be added, has appeared in polls himself.

Just this year, he won 13th place in the flute division of Down Beat's annual summing up of the best musicians. Admittedly, 13th place is quite a step from the top, but it is, at least, something of a tribute when it's realized that Moe was always known home and abroad as an alto saxist. That is, before *The Swingin' Shepherd Blues* was recorded.

It was in 1948, in fact, when Moe was 19 years old, that he won an award as a top alto saxist in a Canadian Jazz Musicians' Poll. His ability, even at that young age, so impressed Barry Ulanov, who came to Toronto to make the awards, that the jazz critic predicted Moe would eventually turn into "a fresh voice in jazz."

As a result of Ulanov's encouraging words, Moe soon after started out on a career as a big band sideman, a five year stint that took him on a series of one-nighters across the United States and back, with such well known bandleaders as Jimmy Dorsey, Tex Beneke and Buddy Morrow.

When Moe finally settled in New York, the pace was just as hectic, but his work was considerably more varied. He played everything from Dixieland clarinet in Wild Bill Davison's band to Spanish dance music and numerous dance band record dates.

Apparently some of that versatility has rubbed off on Moe's current recording activities. To date, the Moe Koffman quartet seems to have come up with a kind of music that bridges the gap between jazz and pops . . . thanks to *The Swingin' Shepherd Blues*.

HELEN MCNAMARA,
Toronto Telegram.

SIDE 1

FLUTE SALAD (Moe Koffman: Benell Music Company: BMI)	3:35
MARTY'S MORGUE (Moe Koffman: Benell Music Company: BMI)	3:21
DOXY (Sonny Rollins: Prestige Music Company: BMI)	3:39
ALONE TOGETHER (Howard Dietz-Arthur Schwartz: Harms, Inc. ASCAP)	4:00

SIDE 2

BERMUDA SCHWARTZ (Moe Koffman: Benell Music Company: BMI)	3:45
WHAT CAN YOU DO (Ron Rully: Benell Music Company: BMI)	3:52
CLOUD NINE (Moe Koffman: Benell Music Company: BMI)	3:22
SURE IT IS (Moe Koffman: Benell Music Company: BMI)	3:29



JGM 1074
(JGM 1074-A)

Side 1
Superlaphonic Hi-Fi

THE "SHEPHERD" SWINGS AGAIN
THE MOE KOFFMAN QUARTET

FLUTE SALAD
(Moe Koffman: BMI) 3:35
MARTY'S MORGUE
(Moe Koffman: BMI) 3:21
DOXY
(Sonny Rollins: BMI) 3:39
ALONE TOGETHER
(Howard Dietz-Arthur Schwartz: ASCAP) 4:00

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LONG **33 $\frac{1}{3}$** PLAY



JGM 1074
(JGM 1074-B)

Side 2
Superlaphonic Mi-Fi

THE "SHEPHERD" SWINGS AGAIN
THE MOE KOFFMAN QUARTET

BERMUDA SCHWARTZ
(Moe Koffman: BMI) 3:45
WHAT CAN YOU DO
(Ron Rully: BMI) 3:52
CLOUD NINE
(Moe Koffman: BMI) 3:22
SURE IT IS
(Moe Koffman: BMI) 3:29

LONG **33 $\frac{1}{3}$** PLAY
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