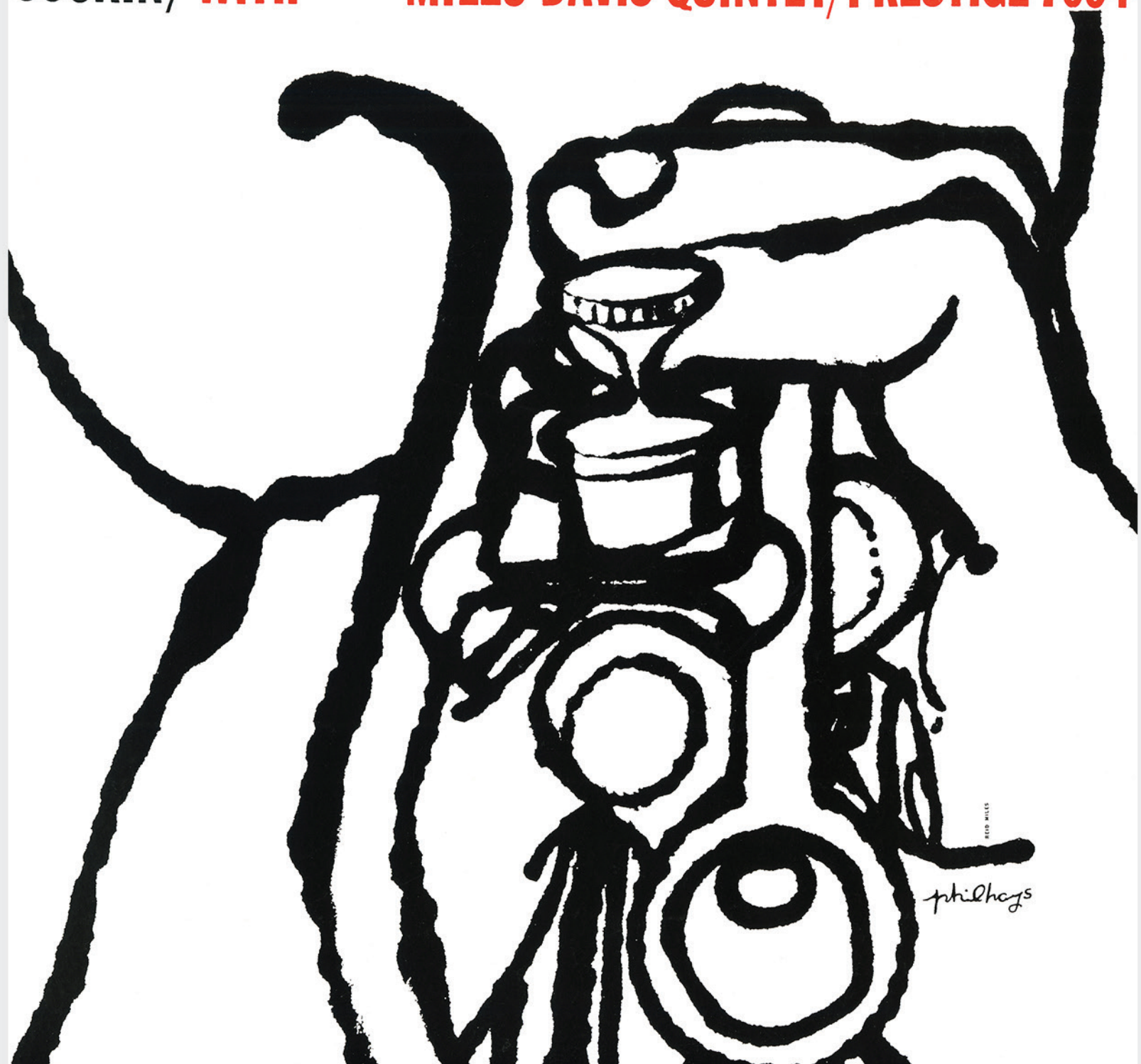


COOKIN' / WITH THE MILES DAVIS QUINTET / PRESTIGE 7094



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COOKIN' WITH THE MILES DAVIS QUINTET

MILES DAVIS, trumpet

JOHN COLTRANE, tenor sax

RED GARLAND, piano

PAUL CHAMBERS, bass

PHILLY JOE JONES, drums

AIREGIN

TUNE UP/WHEN LIGHTS ARE LOW

BLUES BY FIVE

MY FUNNY VALENTINE

It is said that all good things come to an end. One did in the spring of 1957 when **the** Miles Davis Quintet was dissolved. I say **the** Miles Davis Quintet because in their nearly two years together, Miles, John Coltrane, Red Garland, Paul Chambers and Philly Joe Jones achieved a particular kind of unity. They were not just **the** Miles Davis Quintet; to me, and many others, they were **the** group - the best small combo active in modern jazz.

Not only did they improve as a unit while they were together but each member benefitted individually from the association. Miles found an incentive to play again and reached new heights because of the musical environment he had created in choosing his sidemen. The sidemen, in turn, flowered in the climate of the Davis latitude. By the beginning of 1957, Coltrane had broken the shackles of self-doubt and breathed freely into his singing horn, Garland had recorded successfully as a trio pianist (**A Garland of Red**, Prestige LP 7064) and the Chambers-Jones duo was fused into the most powerful of pulses.

The group attained a wonderful mood whether they were playing **My Funny Valentine** or a strenuous swinger like **Airegin**.

For sheer excitement on the up tempos, due more to a tensile under-current feeling rather than the mere speed, the Davis five was unsurpassed. I remember one night in the summer of 1956 at the Cafe Bohemia. I was in the throes of the hay fever miseries and nothing was helping very much. My nasal passages were completely sealed and I was gasping for breath. Along came Miles & Co. You may not know it but when you become stimulated and your adrenal glands go to work, it acts as a wonderful nasal decongestant. Well, after one set I was breathing freely. After two, I had forgotten that I ever had hay fever. That is the kind of excitement this group generated.

In mentioning the Bohemia, I am reminded that it was during one of his stays at that Greenwich Village jazz center that these recordings were taped. In the two studio sessions that were made in that period, Miles called tunes just as he

would for any number of typical sets at a club like the Bohemia. There were no second takes. All in all, 24 extended performances were recorded. The rest will be heard in subsequent albums.

In essence, what you are hearing is a portion of the group's repertoire. Some have been recorded before by Miles but with different personnel. This is similar to the way bands used to record. I do not refer to the calling at tunes as in a set but the idea of recording numbers that have been in the book for awhile, ones with which the musicians are completely at home. I'm sure this had a lot to do with the great string of records that Count Basie made for Decca in the Thirties and although a small group has less difficulty in "shedding" an arrangement, the benefits they reap from experience of playing a piece on the job for several months prior to recording it, are unmistakable.

There are two numbers which Miles has recorded before. **Tune Up** can be heard in **Blue Haze** (Prestige LP 7054) in the company of John Lewis, Percy Heath and Max Roach; **Airegin** in 10 inch LP 187 (soon to be re-issued on 12 inch) with Sonny Rollins (its composer), Horace Silver, Percy Heath and Kenny Clarke.

My Funny Valentine is a premiere recorded performance for Miles and his original **Blues By Five** is also new to discs.

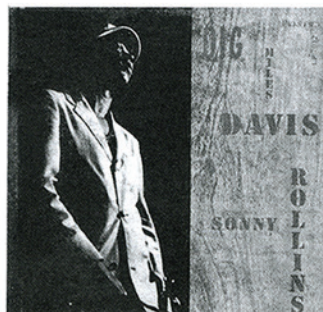
This album is called **Cookin'** at Miles' request. He said, "After all, that's what we did - came in and cooked."

A good thing may have come to an end but we have the recorded proof that it was really that good.

notes by IRA GITLER
supervision by Bob Weinstock
recording by Van Gelder



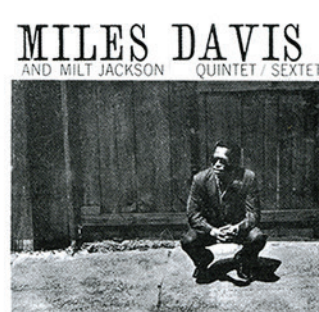
THE MUSINGS OF MILES
Prestige 7007



DIG
Miles Davis with Sonny Rollins
Prestige 7012



MILES
The Miles Davis Quintet
Prestige 7014



MILES DAVIS AND MILT JACKSON
Prestige 7034



MILES DAVIS COLLECTORS' ITEMS
Sonny Rollins / "Charlie Chan"
Prestige 7044