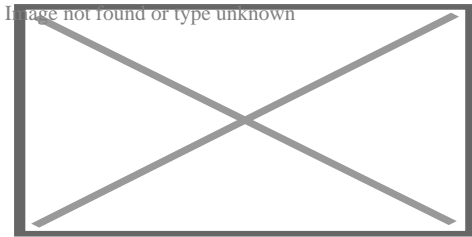




Roland Young on the Development of African American Music, 2 of 2



Identifier

AM.1979.XX.XX.B

Object Type

Analog Audio

Musical Selections

Jack-Ass Blues [excerpt] (2:00) -- St. Louis Blues [excerpt] (2:10) --[solo for trombone, excerpt] (ca. 1976) (0:30) / George Lewis -- [solo for saxophone, excerpt] (0:23) / Anthony Braxton -- [solo for saxophone, excerpt] (0:50) / Roscoe Mitchell -- [excerpt from the "Spiritual Unity"] (ca. 1964) (0:58) / Albert Ayler

Description

A recording of a 1979 lecture by Roland P. Young, given at the Exploratorium in San Francisco. Young was, at the time of this recording, a musician, composer, KPFA program host, and aspiring musicologist, or sound philosopher. In this talk, which he entitled, "The Social, Political, and Aesthetic Development of African American Classical Music," Young attempts to trace certain elements of jazz back to their roots in native African musical traditions. He begins his lecture with a description, augmented by musical excerpts, of the polyphonous vocalizations of equatorial rain forest pygmies in the Congo and surrounding areas. He then juxtaposes these field recordings with jazz solos by John Coltrane and Eric Dolphy, among others, highlighting the similarities in structure and tone. Young then turns his attention to the call and response pattern so typical of African music, and draws a correlation between its traditional practice and the patterns found in many free-jazz performances by such musicians as Roscoe Mitchell, George Lewis, and Albert Ayler. In addition Young discusses the challenges that jazz, and particularly free-jazz music, has had in claiming legitimacy from academic Western music critics, many of whom see its lack of formal notation and embrace of silence or minimalism as indications of a more primitive musical form, a criticism that Young ably deflects. While at times reminiscent of a college course

lecture, this talk is both informative and provocative, and Young's enthusiasm for the subject more than makes up for any dryness in its presentation.

People

Young, Roland P. (features)

Bechet, Sidney, 1897-1959 (features)

Lewis, George, 1952- (features)

Braxton, Anthony (features)

Mitchell, Roscoe, 1940- (features)

Ayler, Albert (features)

Peacock, Gary, 1935- (features)

Murray, Sunny (features)

Related Collection

OMA.COL003.KPFA

[KPFA-FM Music Dept.](#)

Related Objects

AM.1979.XX.XX.A

[Roland Young on the Development of African American Music, 1 of 2](#)