Subject: Monty Alexander
Posted by lon on Sun, 05 Jun 2005 04:32:49 GMT
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For days if not weeks I've been playing with Linux andtrying to get that working.Took a break from that and tuned in the Parlocha show.I heard On Green Dolphin Street playing and heard thesound of Monty Alexander without immediatley knowing the artist.Yes, it was that same Monty Alexander from the same periodof the album Here Comes The Sun. On this one he was stillplaying in that style. It was like the piano was tuned ina certain way that was identifiable because I picked up onit immediately. MA has a lot of records out both as a solistand backup musician to the greats.And, not surprisingly, when Parlocha made the on-air announcementhe said that that album called "Monty Strikes Again" was never released on cd either.He's in the top three of the jazz pianists who can play fastand not 'let up' through the whole piece. Oscar Petersonis another one. I'm still trying to think of a third.Manualb, did you ever get that vinyl?

Subject: Re: Monty Alexander
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 05 Jun 2005 15:49:40 GMT
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Hey Lon; Not yet on the Vynil should be soon; funny but you mention Monty Alexander and the album with Grady Tate and H.H. Pedersen; Threesome, is sitting on the shelf here.. I find him a little superficial; lot of pop jazz; but that could be due to his production of albums. He is very prolific. I like the Live at Montreux disc; Jeff Hamilton is a good drummer. I am a big Oscar Petersen fan also; I find him to be lyrical but also he can get intense and percussive when the music calls for it.Let me ask you something;I came across these LP's at the local record store. They are released by a Japanese co. called Past Perfect and they are identified as the Silver Series. The music is all Jazz from the 30's to the 60's re-mastered in Germany. They are mostly mono; the reason I bring them up is the quality of the recordings are not to be believed. I have not heard this stuff this well recorded ever. The players are a who's who of Jazz from Lester Young to Artie Shaw, Bud Powell, you name it they are there. Have you ever heard of this series? The website is in Japanese. I am Listening to Harry Sweets Edison and it is like a modern recording with frequency extremes and prescence; yet they don't sound equalised.The owner of the store said they came from some distributor and he knows nothing about them. Any experience; do you like that stuff at all?

Subject: Re: Monty Alexander
Posted by lon on Sat, 11 Jun 2005 20:12:02 GMT
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I'm not acquainted with this series nor would I know how to get them.BTW, not only Ann Bancroft

recently passed. Also Oscar Brown Jr.He is someone who is often overlooked in the period of the 60'sto the present. I can still recall airchecking some of hissongs from a table radio to reel to reel from a station inNew York. And I can remember the lyrics to a Brazilian melodyhe did as I write this.The classics are well-preserved. My concern is always those thingswhich may be forgotten and are only contained within memory.That's the function of online archiving and point to point distribution.Even acts that have long standing 'appreciation societies' asthey call them in England (or fan clubs as we know them) seemto have a problem keeping the artists work available.At this point I always think of the English band leader Ted Heath.Not all of Ted Heath's work is memorable. It's mostly a dance bandand the fan club shows members in snooty settings in tuxedos. :-|(At one time I got some sample newsletters from the group.)But there was a Golden Age of this band in the early to mid 60'sthat had (for me) the best arrangements and performances I hadever heard. These became The Paladium Concerts. And the PaladiumConcerts are out of print and hard to find.That Monty Alexander record called "Here Comes The Sun" was put outby a German label called BASF-- prob'ly associated with the tape manufacturer. There is no reason for them to hold suchthings out of print. And so, if a file share can find these, I'd use it.I'm rambling now. But writing about Germany, I heard a band... a studio group under the direction of a fellow named Jiggs Whigham. Carmen McCrae has performed with that band as well asAlan Farnharm.In all this I wonder about all the things I haven't heard at all.

Subject: Re: Monty Alexander
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 12 Jun 2005 01:23:58 GMT
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There is a point inlife when the things you haven't heard become something resembling a foreign land.They are a collection of infinite possibilities.Regarding the re-mastered jazz albums; they are 200 gram vinyl pressings; I bought all they had, 14 albums. If these exist then somewhere there are others not of the same ilk but of the same mystery. The concept that there are people doing this is what intriques me.Forget that they are vinyl but that they are even here at all is fascinating.In the words of Jerry Seinfeld," Who Are These People?"

Subject: Re: Monty Alexander
Posted by lon on Sun, 12 Jun 2005 03:32:17 GMT
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Look at it this way:Where do the best speakers come from? And the most elegant designs?Mostly Japan and Master Nagaoka.And where did Brian Setzer and the Orchestra record theironly live dvd? Hmmhmmm.At the same time there's a growing mainstream interest in _anime_ here; so much so that the graphic novels have been picked upby Barnes and Noble. And the fan sites do their own subtitling.I would love to know how that ties into the dvd authoring market.lon-- former _otaku_

Subject: Re: Monty Alexander
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 12 Jun 2005 14:43:31 GMT
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Otaku; thats a username?

Subject: Otaku [was] Re: Monty Alexander
Posted by lon on Sun, 12 Jun 2005 18:24:35 GMT
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I am a former Otaku only because I am not keeping up with theanime scene as I did for a while. An otaku in transalation is a rabid enthusiast. The closestthing we have to the word is "animation nut."At the local Blockbuster (back when blockbuster was new aroundhere,) they even had a documentary of sorts called "Otaku No Video"which means 'otakus on video'... interviews with these mostlyyoung professional men and their fantasy lives around the characters.The whole Japanese animation thing is fascinating. It'll probablygive you cool points with your kids to know about it.In the last few years what Americans see reported about animeis usually some muckracking about extreme scenes in some of the... here's where I'll lose it.... theres a word for these naughty anime that I forgot.Anyway, at it's best, what the anime does is explore manythemes that, since Woreld War II the japanese people could notexpress in art because !.) their country was destroyed and 2.)the Marshall Plan forbade any political or cultural statemenets in artabout the bomb.So no film industry to speak of. What was left was animation. That'swhythe _anime_ are full length feature films with themes of nuclear destruction, saving the Earth, the the horrors and beautyof technology and what that technology does to a people. The clearest expression of that is a film called "Akira". And there's another called "Ghost In The Shell" which has recently had a sequel.For a direction as to where anime might be going, look for "Final Fantasy." It's in most video stores.

Subject: Re: Otaku [was] Re: Monty Alexander
Posted by Manualblock on Sun, 12 Jun 2005 19:20:15 GMT
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I had a movie I used to play for my son called Spirited Away. Would that qualify?