



Pure Pleasure BCP-6019
Charles Mingus: East Coasting
Format: 1LP 33rpm / standard sleeve

Manufacturer: Pure Pleasure
Original label: Bethlehem
Release date: 27.05.2014

Charles Mingus is usually known for his wild, soulful and avant-garde compositions. "East Coasting" is mellow by comparison, but it still cooks on a musical level. The Mingus touches are there; the trombone, drummer Danny Richmond and of course the dark emotional undercurrent looms large, too. The personnel are all Mingus regulars, except for pianist Bill Evans, who would not be described as 'soulful' in the traditional sense, but his introverted and sensitive style works well with Mingus's music. His playing on "West Coast Ghost" (the album's stand-out track) and "Celia" are two examples of Evans' ability to understand an artist's musical vision and play accordingly in his own beautifully original style. "East Coasting" sounds like the prototypical 1950s jazz recording. It's something one would hear in an attic converted to a bedroom where an artist or lonely soul might live. It's what a lot of people might believe Jazz would or should sound like. Highly recommended to Jazz lovers and perhaps more importantly to young people who have just been blown away by Kerouac's novel "On The Road" and have become interested in exploring Jazz. "East Coasting" will allow them to get a taste of lost creative America.

Recording: August 1957 in New York City "East Coasting" - Charles Mingus (b); Clarence Shaw (tp); Jimmy Knepper (tb); Shafi Hadi (ts, as); Bill Evans (p); Dannie Richmond (dr)