



Pure Pleasure BCP 6066  
John Coltrane: In The Winner's Circle  
Format: 1LP 33rpm / standard sleeve

Manufacturer: Pure Pleasure

Original label:

Release date: 29.10.2013

Rare stuff from John Coltrane! The album features 'Trane' playing tenor on only 4 of the album's 8 tracks – making it kind of surprising that they used his name in the title – but the album is a lesser-known batch of large group recordings that offer an interesting early chapter in his career! The main force behind the album is arranger Harry Tubbs – possibly not a name that's as sexy as John Coltrane, hence the billing – but a worthy leader for the date, given the quality of the music.

Many of the other players here are small combo heroes who can also shine brightly in bigger groups – such as Donald Byrd and Art Farmer on trumpets, Kenny Burrell on guitar, Al Cohn on baritone sax, Eddie Costa on piano and vibes, and Oscar Pettiford on bass – plus Rolf Kuhn, making an early American appearance on clarinet. Coltrane gets in some nice, but short moments on the date – but the bigger charm is the full ensemble work – on titles that include "She Didn't Say Yes", "Turtle Walk", "At Home With The Blues", "Seabreeze", and "Love & The Weather".

Recording: September & October 1957 in New York City  
"In The Winner's Circle" - John Coltrane (ts); Donald Byrd, Art Farmer (tp); Frank Rehak (tb); Gene Quill (as); Al Cohn (bs); Rolf Kuhn (cl); Eddie Costa (p, vib); Freddie Green, Kenny Burrell (g); Oscar Pettiford (b); Philly Joe Jones, Ed