THE MODERN JAZZ QUARTET

FONTESSA (Atlantic 1231) Vinyl. Made & distributed by speakerscornerrecords.com John Lewis (p); Milt Jackson (vib); Percy Heath (b); Connie Kay (d) 1956. **** This is a very appealing MJQ record which should please most enthusiasts. The Fontessa Suite is very much in the miniature jazz chamber music mode but the rest of the programme features some striking ballad and blues playing. *Over The Rainbow* and *Willow Weep For Me* feature Lewis and Jackson on very good form and the vibes man's playing on *Bluesology* is exceptionally good. This remastered LP has first class audio from Speaker's Corner in Germany. Every sound from the quartet, including Kay's tinkling triangle is reproduced faithfully here. (Derek Ansell)