



THE ART FARMER QUARTET

Title: "Live" At the Half Note

Label: Speakers Corner

"He got better as he went along." You could say that of Farmer. A man and his flügelhorn, Farmer added a gloss of fame to the instrument. What he gave to the instrument was a suite of bop stylings but he added his own rhythmic style. A sort of romance and gloss to his work that eased the output to a smooth flow.

A highly experienced jazz musician, Farmer worked with many named bands including Benny Carter, Johnny Otis, Lionel Hampton, Horace Silver and Gerry Mulligan.

This 1963 release was notable for two things. Firstly it banished the piano from the sound and added the guitar of Jim Hall. Added to these sweet sounds were the bass of Steve Swallow and the drums of Walter Perkins.

Secondly, consisting mainly of swing standards and well mastered to boot, the band does that magical thing of combining detail and complexity but in a cool and relaxed manner.