

The
TENORSAX
of
DANIEL L. JACKSON

Solographer: Jan Evensmo
Last update: Aug. 25, 2016

Born: La Jolla, suburb of San Diego, 1937
Died: San Diego, Sept. 3, 2014

Introduction:

I had never heard the name Dan Jackson before I bought the Lenny McBrowne CD (Fresh Sound FSR-CD614) and discovered his excellent tenorsax playing. Typical candidate for a solography!

History:

Started playing the "C" Melody saxophone at twelve years of age. He played in the San Diego High School band where he switched to tenor and learned to play piano with the help of his brother Fred. Graduating in 1955, then joined the Air Force, securing a spot in the marching band and played with the band throughout his four years hitch. He received an Honorable Discharge in 1959 whereupon he joined Lenny McBrowne for his first professional job. His major influences are Harold Land, Bud Powell and Horace Silver (ref. liner notes to CD). Worked with Ray Charles for some time, touring Europe (mid-60s), fell victim to heroin addiction. Lived in Mexico for awhile, ultimately returned to San Diego, kicked his habit, and was active in the local music scene from the 80s, also teaching and playing piano. Died from cancer.

Message:

Postscript of Aug. 25, 2016: I am sorry that I did not do my homework properly in the first edition of his solography. DJ was obviously a very active and highly respected artist in San Diego. Thanks to all those who have sent me supplementary material on DJ's life. I noted the following: "Appearances at jam sessions have been high points of the 2000s, during which Jackson has recorded several independently produced CDs ...". Could anybody give examples of DJ's tenorsax playing after 1960?

DANIEL JACKSON SOLOGRAPHY

LENNY McBROWNE AND THE FOUR SOULS **LA. Jan. 2, 1960**

Donald Sleet (tp), Daniel Jackson (ts, comp-item 1,4,5), Terry Trotter (p), Herbie Lewis (b), Lenny McBrowne (dm), Elmo Hope (arr).

Seven titles were recorded for Pacific Jazz, no tenorsax on “McBrowne’s Galaxy” but:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Soul Sisters | Soli 44 and 6 bars. (M) |
| Invitation | Solo 48 bars. (SM) |
| Dearly Beloved | Soli 32 and 8 bars. (FM) |
| Lazinka’s Tune | Solo 32 bars. (M) |
| Cerise | Solo 20 bars. (S) |
| I Married An Angel | Acc. (tp). (S) |

Here we have a new very exciting modern tenorsax player!! In a very groovy session DJ offers several excellent soli, very beautiful in slower tempi and a fine swinger in medium, of the latter kind note in particular “... Tune”, a very fine tune!!

GLORIA SMYTH VOCAL WITH LENNY McBROWNE & THE FOUR SOULS **LA. March 21, 1960**

Personnel as above.

Three titles were recorded for World Pacific, issued as “Like Soul!”, no tenorsax on “Sometimes I’m Happy” but:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| It Don’t Mean A Thing | Solo 32 bars. (FM) |
| Running Wild | Obbligato 32 bars. (F) |

Again, DJ is an interesting tenorsax performer with fine qualities, his solo on “... Thing” is worth noticing!

LENNY McBROWNE & THE FOUR SOULS **LA. Oct. 13, 1960**

Donald Sleet (tp), Daniel Jackson (ts, comp-all except item 4), Terry Trotter (p), Jimmy Bond (b), Lenny McBrowne (dm).

Eight titles were recorded for Riverside, issued as “Eastern Lights”:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Saudi | Solo 24 bars. (M) |
| No Consideration | Solo 48 bars. (M) |
| I Don’t Know The Melody | Solo 52 bars. (F) |
| Like Someone In Love | In ens. (SM) |
| Eastern Lights | Solo 88 bars. (M) |
| Even Dozen | Solo 24 bars. (M) |
| Tryin’ And Cryin’ | Intro to solo 56 bars to coda. (S) |
| Chicago Preferred | Solo 36 bars. (FM) |

Quoting Chris Albertson’s liner notes: “Under the leadership of the very talented Lenny McBrowne, they form one of the most tightly-knit new groups on the jazz scene today. Their music, hard swinging yet thoroughly melodic, seems to take advantage of the best features of both Coasts, proving once again the fallacy of saddling jazz with geographical labels. The album displays a compelling spirit of unity and mutual understanding, underlined by outstanding musicianship, and spotlights the fresh and tuneful writing of Daniel Jackson”. Yes, right, this is an excellent group in every way (see the Donald Sleet solography), and it is incomprehensible why DJ is not a big name. He plays excellent modern tenorsax, relaxed and creative on all items here. Whether listening to the fast “... Melody”, the inbetween medium titles like “Eastern ...” or his magnificent ballad solo feature “... Cryin’”, one gets the feeling of a great loss. What happened to him? Postscript of Aug. 23, 2016: This has been answered on p. 2.

No further recording sessions.