

JAZZTIMES

RECORD REVIEWS

DENNY ZEITLIN/CHARLIE HADEN

Time Remembers One Time Once

ECM Records 1239

Denny Zeitlin, piano; Charlie Haden, bass.

Chairman Mao; Bird Food; As Long as There's Music; Time Remembers One Time Once; Love for Sale; Ellen David; Satellite/How High The Moon; The Dolphin.

No cover, no minimum (after you get this set home) for this original and exciting performance by two of the greatest free associationists in jazz. Recorded at Keystone Korner in July, '81, Zeitlin and Haden interrelate the roles of both actor and director in the improvisatory theater of spontaneously improvising jazz, each interacting within the performance itself to combine their creation and the appreciation by the listener as one moment.

Zeitlin's chosen career in medicine has prevented him from appearing in the jazz limelight often, but his playing here is ever articulate and sensitive, revealing no loss of the startling keyboard proficiency and sense of amazement he displayed in his Columbia albums of the '60s. He combines his ability to reach for and achieve the different and unexpected sound with bassist Charlie Haden, a man who travels the jazz world in search of new and awesome challenge. Haden again shows his ability to interchange from sensitive support to leading the direction of the performance in his forthrightly individualistic manner.

So with no limitation of what the two instrumentalists can create by use of techniques, we get an astonishingly varied musical palette to sample. Ornette Coleman's "Bird Food" starts with Zeitlin's fleet clever, fulfilling piano, and thematic exploration by bass, then collective improvisation chorus by both instruments, in and out of tempo, then drawing to a complete conclusion; "Love for Sale," reverently outlines the beautiful harmonic structure of this evergreen; what follows is a marvelously simple yet eloquent rendering of a classic tune. "Ellen David" seems harmonically and melodically related to "For Heaven's Sake" and is a good vehicle for Haden's profound bass exploration. The Coltrane riff "Satellite" segues midway through the tune by spontaneous agreement into "How High The Moon", and produces some of the earthiest work on the lp.

As consistently rewarding a listening experience as you're likely to get!

■ JEFF BARR