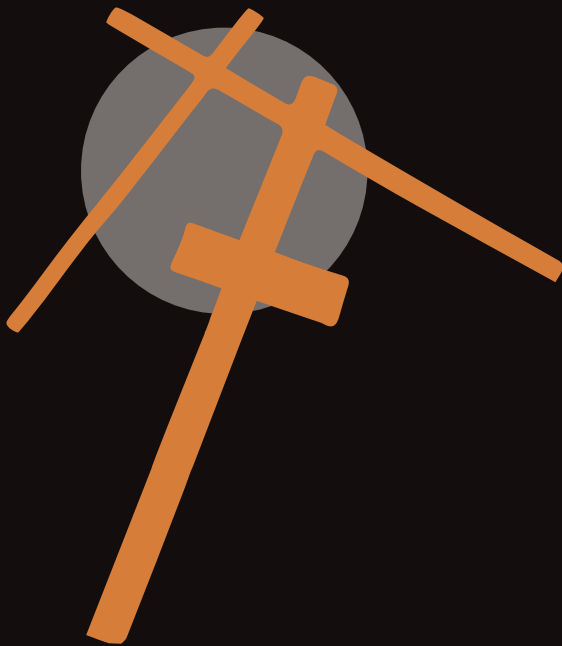


LOUIS HAYES

EXACTLY RIGHT!

Abraham Burton
Steve Nelson
David Hazeltine
Dezron Douglas





- 1. Exactly Right!** 4:40
(Louis Hayes) (Quintessential Lou) BMI
- 2. Is That So?** 6:40
(Duke Pearson) (Gailantcy Music Co.) BMI
- 3. Hand in Glove** 6:45
(Cedar Walton) (Vernita Music) BMI
- 4. So Many Stars** 5:35
(Sérgio Mendes / Marilyn & Alan Bergman)
(Spirit Two Music / WC Music) ASCAP
- 5. Carmine's Bridge*** 5:01
(David Hazeltine) (Hazeltine Music) BMI
- 6. Nefertiti** 5:20
(Wayne Shorter) (Miyako Music) BMI
- 7. Mellow D** 5:27
(Horace Silver) (Ecaroh Music) ASCAP
- 8. Theme for Ernie** 5:41
(Fred Lacey) (Prestige Music Co.) BMI
- 9. Scarborough Fair** 3:47
(Traditional)
- 10. Ugetsu** 6:03
(Cedar Walton) (Prestige Music Co.) BMI

*Carmine's Bridge was written by David Hazeltine for an old acquaintance to whom bridges were very important. In his honor, this tune actually does not have a bridge. (Just as a physical bridge is used to connect two places together, a musical bridge can connect two sections of a song.) The tune itself could be a bridge.

Louis Hayes is known for getting an idea and staying with it. It had been almost two years since he recorded *Crisis* (Savant Records SCD 2192) during the “crisis,” and he was ready to make another album with the band. The band is Abraham Burton, Steve Nelson, Dezron Douglas, and David Hazeltine. Lou said they had become a real band and he never had to do anything more than give them the tempo and then he could play what he wanted, and they were all there as one. That is always the goal, and it takes time and practice but when it comes together, Louis Hayes has a smile on his face and that “Mellow D” vibe fills the room. Dezron describes the process in detail saying, “Before the date, we talked on the phone. Lou had some suggestions for tunes he would like to play. I made some suggestions and Lou would say yay or nay. I have learned what Lou likes to do. We wanted to put him in a position to be his highest self and put the musicians in a place where they can play what they are feeling. Because Lou and I know each other so well, we know what’s going to work and what is not. Sometimes I will be explaining an idea to him, and he has a look on his face that lets me know that it’s not going to work.”

Dezron continues, “The concept for this album is Louis Hayes. The members of this band have a history with Lou and each other. We can laugh at jokes that are only one word because we know what is coming next. We speak the same language. He hit a home run with this unit. When we get on the bandstand, we play with enthusiasm and vibrancy, almost like reading each other’s minds.”

“I like to think of it as a magic carpet ride,” says pianist David Hazeltine. “Louis Hayes oozes groove and swing, and when you get to do your thing on top of that, it’s magic and it’s transportive!”

Once the tunes were chosen, the rhythm section had rehearsed and the lead sheets were sent to Abraham and Steve, Maxine called Barney Fields and told him Lou was ready to record.

Barney Fields is an exceptional record company owner. He is the son of Joe Fields, the legendary owner of Muse Records who was known for supporting the artists on his label not only by recording them but by being there at their club dates and concerts and even, in the case of Woody Shaw, traveling with the band to Berlin to organize a live recording which featured Louis Hayes in 1976. Lou had a long history with Joe Fields and

now that Barney is in charge, Lou said he is totally comfortable working with him. During the recording in December, 2022, Barney was in the studio taking care of all the nuts and bolts of the session, freeing up Lou and the band to concentrate exclusively on their music. Take it from me and Lou, this has not always been the case in the record business. Lou is already planning his next recording project with Savant and Barney.

The studio in Paramus, New Jersey was “exactly right” according to Lou. When Louis Hayes likes the vibe in the room, we know everything will be smooth and calm. The drum and cymbal sound was everything Lou wanted, with engineer Chris Sulit taking the time to get precisely the colors Lou heard in his mind’s ear. Even when Steve Nelson asked to re-do a solo, Chris made time for him to have another go at it and get it just as he wanted. Steve Nelson is a perfectionist so making him happy takes patience, but it is well worth the effort.

Louis Hayes has been named the 2023 National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master. On hearing the news, Abraham Burton said, in his usual poetic way, “Lou is cut from the cloth of the elite, a musician who lives the music he creates...One whose heart is always in rhythm with the beat of his drums. He breathes life into every ride cymbal pattern rendering it unique in its design and exquisite in its execution. When you hear it, you feel it, and you know it can only be Lou. I am thrilled the NEA decided to thank you, Lou, for decades of music, mentorship, laughter, stories, and friendship. You are truly a Jazz Giant, a pioneer, a legion... and an NEA Jazz Master.”

This album is the story Louis Hayes wants to tell about being a Jazz musician with a history that began as a teenager in Detroit, Michigan. His philosophy is to play the music with total honesty with musicians who have the same feeling he has. According to Lou, the album is “Exactly Right!”

~ Liner Notes by **Louis Hayes** and **Maxine Gordon**



Produced by **Louis Hayes** and **Dezron Douglas**
Executive Producer: **Maxine Gordon**
Engineered & Mixed by **Chris Sulit**
Recorded at Trading 8s Studio, Paramus, NJ
on December 16 & 17, 2022
Mastered by **David Darlington**
at Bass Hit Recording, New York, NY
Photographs by **Anna Yatskevich**
Graphic Design by **Irem Ela Yildizeli**

David Hazeltine appears courtesy of Smoke Sessions Records

Thank you to Nisha Hayes & Keith Thomas

LOUIS HAYES – drums

ABRAHAM BURTON – tenor saxophone

STEVE NELSON – vibraphone

DAVID HAZELTINE – piano

DEZRON DOUGLAS – bass

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