

## Rashied Ali Quintet in Poland

Very rarely in Krakow we can witness top-shelf jazz musician. In Warsaw, they have a bigger budget to be able to bring in this caliber of musicians. That is why this was such an extraordinary event.

Ali, invited to the 12th summer jazz festival, is a drummer who is heavily influenced by the most important modern sax player, Coltrane, and the music of the second half of his works, kept in a spiritual tone.

When Ali stepped in for Jones in Coltrane's band, the fans questioned the reasoning behind the move. The old quartet broke up and two new faces joined the Giant: Alice McLeod (later Coltrane), and Ali. That period of Coltrane's works was the answer to the spreading out of free jazz and electric jazz characteristic of the work of Miles Davis.

Therefore with great anticipation, I wanted to experience Ali's concert, along with the young musicians who could very well be his grandchildren.

Before the concert, the members of the band provided reporter Krupa with a comprehensive interview. One of the questions Krupa asked was directed to Ali – “When was the last time he listened to Coltrane's album. Ali's response was short – “This morning.” The whole interview will be broadcasted on Krupa's radio show.

From the very first sounds, it became clear that Coltrane's music and his interpretation of the music became the bands main ideology. Despite the fact that there was one original piece performed, Liberia, all the pieces performed during the concert were very well harmonized and arranged in the spirit of the Master.

The spotlight was on the two 20-something musicians: the trumpet player, Josh Evans who's style of playing resembles the style of a piano player, and a good modern copy of the master, tenor sax player, Lawrence Clark. These two names are well worth remembering.

In the rhythm section, Joris Teepe, double bass, true “garrison-like walking” (??) and the nearly perfect pianist, Greg Murphy.

Ali could be a subject of many conversations, and it was no different with us and our friends. We talked about his technical abilities, despite his age, about his musical intuition, about his role as a catalyst in the band, about the huge role of the great jazz masters (Armstrong, Ellington, Davis, Coltrane) in the development of Jazz in general, and about Beli Bartouk's music, which was the subject of Coltrane's studies.

During the concert, Ali was wearing a t-shirt that said “Saint John Coltrane – African Orthodox Church.” In front of the great crowd, we witnessed one of the most important jazz concerts that took place in Krakow.

Translation courtesy of Maciej Kusmierz