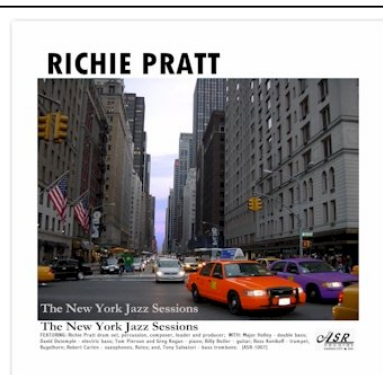


Richie Pratt

The New York Jazz Sessions



PRODUCED BY:
Richie Pratt Enterprises
www.RichiePratt.com
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'ASR RECORDS (Kansas City USA)
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TRACK LISTING:

1. Mellow Groove [7:03]
2. Olathe [4:34]
3. Mucho Trabajo [4:08]
4. The Sheik Of Funk [3:30]
5. The Manhattan Sunset [4:14]
6. I mo [5:29]
7. I mo (radio version) [4:50]

The release of the music on The New York Jazz Sessions compact disc has taken 20 years to realization. When Kansas City area native, Richie Pratt embarked upon a career as a professional musician on the New York scene in the early 1970s, it was as much due to unanticipated intervention as anything else. Pratt was born to a musical family and raised in the Kansas City metro city of Olathe, Kansas. He studied music via the piano, as well as, attended various music camps during his formative years as a youth. Eventually growing into a rather large and powerful man, he attended the University of Kansas under a full four-year scholarship to play varsity football. While enrolled in school and living in Lawrence, he would not only block for Pro Football Hall of Fame running back Gayle Sayers as an All-Time KU Football Letterman, but Pratt also continued his musical development. He performed in orchestra, jazz and wind ensembles, along with performing in a USO show that first took to Hawaii. He was eventually drafted by the NFL's New York Giants...

Richie Pratt's prolific tenure as a first-call percussionist on the highly competitive New York music scene began after he suffered a career ending injury during his second season with the Giants. His professional tenure as a musician in New York actually began while he was employed as a Host at the famed Village Gate. Richie began sitting in with Jaki Byard and word began to spread about the big guy from the Midwest who played drums. The great legendary late bassist, Major Holley, eventually invited Pratt to jam on Sundays at Jacques; which resulted in Junior Mance hearing him play drums and offering him his first paid gig as a drummer in New York. Initially described in the New York press as a "bubbling cauldron of musical vitality," Pratt subsequently added musical diversity to his cauldron by performing with the American Symphony, the Joffrey Ballet, Alvin Ailey; in the Broadway hits: Ain't Suppose to Die; Dude; Raisin; and notably, Pratt was the drum soloist in Broadway's smashing tribute to Duke Ellington - Sophisticated Ladies!

In the traditional Jazz arena, Richie Pratt spent over three years as a member of the New York Jazz Quartet, which included Sir Roland Hanna, Frank Wess, and George Mraz. Pratt also accompanied Billy Taylor, Milt Jackson, Milton Hinton, Frank Foster, Monte Alexander, Michel Legrand, Lionel Hampton, Benny Goodman, Benny Carter among others. The lightness and sensitivity of his drumming has enhanced such legendary vocalists as: Nancy Wilson, Aretha Franklin, Marlena Shaw, Barry White, Melba Moore, the Temptations, Della Reese, Johnny Hartman, Carol Sloane, and Johnny Desmond as well. The music here captures a formidable jazz legacy, artistic passion and undeniable experience.

The New York Jazz Sessions is great jazz that is made real by some of the finest artists to ever perform the music. 'ASR RECORDS is pleased to present the formal debut commercial release as a leader by a superb artist, Richie Pratt.

