



Coast to Coast

Red Holloway | Fantasy

My, my, my. It's impossible to stay in a bad mood listening to this new CD: five seasoned swingmeisters and a bag full of uptempo blues. "Coast to Coast" achieves that perfect paradox: music that's tight and relaxed at the same time. It's a treat for tenor fans, with both the estimable Red Holloway and Frank Wess on the stand, and it's great to hear organist Dr. Lonnie Smith again, who remains one of the classiest practitioners of his instrument. Veterans Paul Humphrey (bass) and Melvin Sparks (guitar) aid and abet this thoroughly enjoyable session, where the solos in a breakneck-paced "Avalon" are enough to make the record (I had to check the credits to make sure there wasn't a bass player in there – it's Smith doing the fast-walking lines with his foot pedals).

The only ballad is a luscious "Indian Summer," with Holloway on alto weaving commentary around Wess's tenor lines. Holloway also does a very credible job singing Helen Humes's racy "Million Dollar Secret," as affable and expressive on vocals as he is on his horn.

If you don't move some part of your body while listening to this one, you'd better check your pulse. Recommended.

~ [Dr. Judith Schlesinger](#)