

CD-Roms

John Coltrane: The Ultimate Blue Train Enhanced CD

Blue Note, £11.99

Windows PC and Mac, 8Mb Ram

I'D REACHED the conclusion that the Enhanced CD format was one of history's most useless inventions, thanks to its usually scrappy content and incompatibility with many CD-Rom drives, but this one is enough to provoke a rethink.

It's based on John Coltrane's epic 1957 Blue Train album — the audio tracks have been remastered in 20-bit stereo, and alternative takes of Blue Train and Lazy Bird have been included — while the additional interactive segments offer interviews, musical excerpts from other Coltrane discs and by some of his illustrious contemporaries, period artwork and a critical essay about Coltrane. There's also a chunk of video snipped from the famous 1959 TV broadcast, The Sound Of Miles Davis, in which Davis's quintet (with Coltrane on tenor sax) plays So What.

Most fascinating of all is an interview with Rudy Van Gelder, the legendary jazz sound engineer, who talks about working with the jazz greats and offers insights into the recording technology of the day. For once, "enhanced" means just that. AS

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