Translation from Japanese, of the liner notes to the Personal Statement album.

87-1215 WARNE MARSH. Van Nuys, CA., December 15, 1987.

Warne Marsh, ts; solo improvisations.

1 INTRODUCTION 2:24 2 STATEMENT 1 5:01 3 STATEMENT 2 8:44 4 STATEMENT 3 6:00 5 STATEMENT 4 3:51 6 STATEMENT 5 2:28

all CD JAZZBANK/Archives MTCJ-1050

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LINER NOTES TO PERSONAL STATEMENT – TOSHIYA TAENAKA

There have been many unaccompanied records of piano and guitar. Joe Pass, Bill Evans and Art Tatum have made wonderful solo albums. In the jazz world (even) Barre Phillips (bass), and Max Roach (drums) have released solo albums.

However there have been very few unaccompanied trumpet and saxophone solo works. The modernist Anthony Braxton released an unaccompanied album in the late sixties, if I recall, and the well known Sonny Rollins made an unaccompanied album for Milestone. Marsh’s friend and colleague Lee Konitz had previously released a solo album on the Steeplechase label. So in that sense, this solo saxophone album by Warne Marsh can be considered comparatively unique.

Warne Marsh was born in 10/26/1927 in Los Angeles in California. His father was a photographer in the studios, and his mother a violinist for the live music that accompanied silent movies. At an early age he was a featured saxophonist in the Hollywood Canteen orchestra. He played tenor in an army band, became a student of Lennie Tristano while still in service, and was part of Tristano’s pioneering cool jazz group in New York after demobilization, along with altoist Lee Konitz, and guitarist Billy Bauer. Originally from the West Coast, he shuttled between the two cities. In his later years he returned to LA and had his own groups there, until he suffered a heart attack and died on 12/17/87, while playing at Donte’s jazz club. While he was never given prominence in jazz journalism like John Coltrane or Sonny Rollins, his place is assured as the number one tenor in the Tristano circle.

This album was edited by Marsh from 2 hours of tape just before his death. Taped on 12/15/87, it was his last recording in the true sense. It was delivered into the writer’s hands on the 16th.

None of the selections are titled. All are Marsh’s Personal Statements. This solo album was part of an intended long term project which commenced in 1987, comprising quintet, quartet, piano less trio, bass duo etc. Unexpectedly, this became his last.

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Just as a matter of interest, no-one I have approached has been able to give a name to all the tunes Warne has improvised on to make up the six titles, and that includes several professional and well known musicians. Very abstract indeed.

Jack Goodwin