



BEAR FAMILY RECORDS

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SHIPPING DATE: MAY 26, 2008 (estimated)

STREET DATE: JUNE 09, 2008

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| ARTIST | BIG AL SEARS |
| TITLE | Sear-iously |
| LABEL | Bear Family Records |
| CATALOG # | BCD 15668 |
| PRICE-CODE | AH |
| EAN-CODE |  4 000127 156686 |
| ISBN-CODE | 978-3-89795-229-4 |
| FORMAT | CD with 28-page booklet |
| GENRE | R&B |
| TRACKS | 25 |
| PLAYING TIME | 82:16 |



KEY SELLING POINTS

- He invented R&B saxophony!
- He started with Duke Ellington and ended up leading the house bands on those fabulous rock'n'roll tours!
- Jazz and R&B fans will want this. Tenor sax comes no better!

SALES NOTES

New York was loaded with blasting R&B tenor saxophonists during the 1950s. Their frantic wails helped define rock 'n' roll during its formative years. In that scene, Big Al Sears was a titan among titans. Prior to his full-fledged leap into the R&B arena, Big Al played with the orchestras of Andy Kirk and Duke Ellington, later blowing his mighty horn loud and long on Johnny Hodges' 1951 instrumental hit *Castle Rock*. Big Al would eventually operate his own record labels and publishing company, but 'Sear-iously' deals with his swinging 1949-1956 sides as a bandleader for Coral, RCA Victor, Herald, and Groove, when scorching instrumentals were in vogue and the bespectacled saxist was in the vanguard of it all.

Backed by a coterie of New York heavy hitters including saxman Budd Johnson, guitarist Mickey Baker, bassist Milt Hinton, and drummer Panama Francis, Sears rattles the rafters time and again with barn-burners such as *Rock And Roll Ball*, *Here's The Beat*, *Great Googa Mooga*, *Right Now*, *Right Now*, and the title track. Fellow New York R&B pioneer Jesse Stone turns up as guest vocalist under his Charles Calhoun sobriquet on *Come And Dance With Me*, and Big Al serves up LaVern Baker's then-current smash *Tweedlee Dee* as an infectious instrumental. This was the era when Sears was a featured member of Alan Freed's rock and roll orchestra, and it's obvious why the top-rated deejay revered him: Big Al's big tone could instantly ignite any audience.

Bear Family Records • Grenzweg 1 • 27729 Holste-Oldendorf • Germany
www.bear-family.de



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TRACK LISTING

1. 125th Street, New York
2. Shake Hands
3. Tan Skin Lad
4. Brown Boy
5. Huffin' and Puffin'
6. Sear-iously
7. Mag's Alley
8. Fo-Yah
9. In The Good Old Summertime
10. Ivory Cliffs
11. Easy Ernie
12. Vo-Sa
13. Goin' Uptown
14. Tweedle Dee
15. Come And Dance With Me
16. Come A' Runnin'
17. Tom, Dick 'N'Harry
18. Tina's Canteen
19. Right Now, Right Now
20. Midnight Wail
21. Love Call
22. Rock And Roll Ball
23. Here's The Beat
24. Great Googa Mooga
25. Fo Yah (take B)