

Critical Listening Critiques: Ahunk Ahunk by Thad Jones

Marissa Chamblee

For this Jazz song called "Ahunk Ahunk", I chose category A with the adjective sprightly because this song is so lively to me in its expressive rhythm and timing. It is very complex with its intricate workings of how the entire piece has such a full comprehensiveness of bulk with all of the horn's bursting notes of a very active feel. I couldn't help but move to it because of its coherence of frisky little sprightly spunk. The timbre of the instruments also made the adjective sprightly connect to me because of the piano, bass guitar, drums, and etc. in the way their tones were. Also in category A, I chose the adjective cheerful because it's a fun song to hear. Let me go into more detail of why I say fun. It's fun because it's a very interesting song with its rhythm. Its complexity in its timing is also very clever. This piece really made me cheerful as I realized I had been tapping the ball of my foot to the beat the entire time while listening. What hit me a very coherent in this piece of how it held my attention were all the cheerful sounding instruments. The trumpets that kicked in about a minute and thirty seconds and the more powerful drums and horns around two minutes in this piece really grasped it all together with its cohesiveness. I liked the ending as it left me with a complete satisfied ended feeling as this song was a fun communicative piece. Jazz pieces can be such toe tapping songs with such great rhythms, especially as the trumpets in this piece played their solos. The third adjective I chose in category A was playful. I chose this because it was communicating to me such a lively way, it also communicates very playful to me. In category B, I chose two adjectives for "Ahunk Ahunk". I chose the adjective whimsical. I tie this adjective in a little with the adjective playful because of the songs communication of a light playful and whimsical kind of way. It made me curiously listen to what this jazz piece was composed of throughout its duration. All of the instruments were very cohesive in a whimsical way in which the composer wrote jazz piece for all the instrument's separate parts. The catchy beat was a lot to do with the playful and whimsicalness of Ahunk Ahunk. When an upbeat jazz piece combines blaring trumpets along with a toe tapping drum rhythm, along with trombones, saxophones, and a bass guitar, you have a great opportunity to make a great playful and whimsical piece such as this. In category B I also chose the adjective quaint. I chose this because this song gave me that "old fashioned charm". Jazz pieces like this were probably more broadly heard in older generations at one time, so it communicates to me in an old fashioned quaint way. Another reason for this adjective I chose was due to Ahunk Ahunk's cohesiveness of holding that quaint feeling from beginning to end. In its duration, it never lost its feel of its cohesiveness of being interconnected and unified of this adjective I chose, along with my other chosen adjectives. Its coherence also made my attention focus on imagining older time periods of people really enjoying this song.

Any time you have a Grammy award winning band, there is probably going to be good music connected to it. Considering this piece required high degree skill players playing in unison, I give it a high value. I also give it a high value because I got great enthusiastic energy from this piece. If music gives me a good feeling after I listen to it several times, it's good music to me and marked good value within my soul. Music can give you more than just obvious value or practical value. It provides us with notable value as well. It is included in our entertainment value and functioning enhancement value. Ahunk Ahunk gave that to me. Ahunk Ahunk was continued to be played after Jones moved and Lewis died. The fact that

this song has continued to be played by others makes me consider it a good piece of music and holds its platform in the jazz genre. And I'm quite for certain that it will be continually played for several long lasting years to come.