

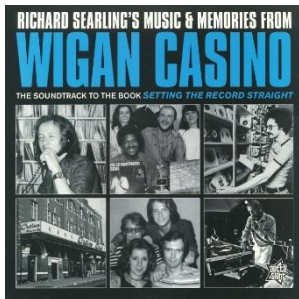


SOUL BROTHER RECORDS – NEWEST RELEASES AND FORTHCOMING TITLES

Welcome to our interim review feature where we share some of the best newly released and forthcoming titles. All reviews are our own: we take time to review everything you see here so you know you're not just being fed the label's release info – we've been reviewing releases for over 20 years so it's second nature to us.

You can buy everything on this feature by clicking the image/artist/title info. You will also be able to sample sounds on most of these releases

Enjoy!



[RICHARD SEARLING: MUSIC & MEMORIES FROM WIGAN CASINO 1973-1981 LP £17.99](#)

Northern soul DJ and broadcasting legend Richard Searling presents this 16 tracks selection of records that defined his status at Wigan Casino across an 8 year period. This set draws from the 150 discs that Richard profiles in the accompanying book 'Setting The Record Straight' and includes huge sounds like Gloria Jones - "Tainted Love", The Inspirations 'Your Wish Is My Command', The Just Brothers 'Carlena', Connie Clark 'My Sugar Baby', Vickie Baines 'Country Girl', Matt Lucas 'Baby You Better Go-Go', The Honey Bees 'Let's Get Back', The Appointments 'I Saw You There', The Group 'I Don't Like To Lose', Billy Woods 'Let Me Make You Happy' and Alfie Davison 'Love Is Serious Business' among others. Solid comp

to couple with a great read.



[SABU MARTINEZ – JAZZ ESPANGOLE LP £24.99](#)

Perhaps the greatest Latin jazz albums of all time 'Jazz Espangole' was percussionist Sabu's masterpiece with a red hot set of sambas, descargas, Afros, boleros, cha chas, mambos, etc. Jazz Espangole was really Frankie Malangre's band who allowed Sabu to utilise their talents. The rip roaring 'Oracle' is a fiery cuban gem, 'Flipping' is a stripped back afro-Latin banger while the sultry 'Flamenco Ain't bad' really cooks. 'Woody 'N You' is a steam roller slab of jazz while 'Nica's Dream' keeps up the heat. Superb stuff.



[NORTHERN SOUL ANTHEMS 2LP £24.99](#)

26 track heavyweight double vinyl set of Northern Soul classics, includes Judy Street 'What', The Vibrations 'Gonna Get Along Without You Now', Reparata & The Deltons 'Panic', Willie Kendrick 'You Can't Bypass Love' Willie Hutch 'Lucky To Be Love By You' Sandi Sheldon 'You're Gonna Make Me Love You', Kenny Carter 'What's That On Your Finger', Larry Williams & Johnny Watson 'Too Late', The Metros 'I'll Never Forget You', Kitty Lester 'Some Things Are Better Left Unsaid', The Insiders 'I'm Just A Man', Dean Courtney 'I'll Always Need You' and Sharon Scott 'It's Better' among others.



[JORGA SMITH – LOST & FOUND CD £11.99/2LP £26.99](#)

Debut album from Walsall's Jorga Smith, 'Lost & Found' is the much anticipated full length from this upcoming artist who won a Brits Critics' Choice award and co-wrote a track with Kendrick Lamar on the Black Panther soundtrack. The sound and lyrics are relevant to today and will strike a chord in this age of uncertainty. Vocally she draws inspiration from Lauren Hill and Amy Winehouse but she has her own identity. 'Blue Lights' is a lilting beat ballad that deals with issues surrounding race, the expansive 'Teenage Fantasy' is lyrically strong with a laid back feel while the glitch groove of 'On Your Own' is also a highlight. 'The One' slowly peaks and troughs while the pensive 'Tomorrow' has echoes of Corinne Bailey Rae.



CITRUS SUN – RIDE LIKE THE WIND CD £12.99

Incognito legend Bluey presents the third full length offering from 8-piece jazz group Citrus Sun featuring the talents of Jim Mullen on guitar as well as the Incognito rhythm section in full effect. 'Ride Like The Wind' is stylistically mixed bag with Brazilian vibes like the cover of the Marcos Valle/Leon Ware penned 'Vontade De Rever Voce' sharing space with a sparkling jazz funk cover of AOR hit 'Ride Like The Wind'. 'The Stallion Rides Again' has that classic Incognito feel, the boogie funkier 'Send Me Your Feelings' draws on Roy Ayers/Donald Byrd's more disco touches while the 5-Part 'Krabi Suite' allows the band to really go into some superb improv passages while remaining cosmic and funky. 'All Mine' starts off meelow but picks up in the second half to transform into an irresistible slab of NYC Jazz Funk that sounds

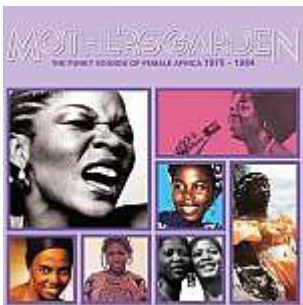
like it came out of 1979. Superb, faultless stuff from Bluey and the gang.



SWING OUT SISTER – ALMOST PERSUADED CD £13.99/LP £19.99

It's amazing to think that it's almost 30 years since Swing Out Sister released their first album with the pop-soul hit 'Breakout'. With three decades of experience behind them the duo of Corinne Drewery and Andy Connell certainly know how to craft lush, at times expansive dreamy soulscapes and at others, highly polished, sophisticated jazz tinged grooves and 'Almost Persuaded' is drenched in both. The sultry, sparkling 'Happier Than Sunshine' has an infectious head nodding tempo aided by trickling drops of percussion and keys that add atmosphere, the Bacharach style 'Almost Persuaded' has a delightfully lazy, mellow vibe while 'I Wish I Knew' tips a wink to London's swinging 60s while at the same time being thoroughly modern – something the duo do so well. Corinne's voiced adopts a rougher edge on the

lovely, percussion lead mid tempo 'Everyone's Here' while the jazz club vibe of 'Be My Valentine' is a bittersweet tale told to a backing that brings to mind a sophisticated cocktail party. Highly accomplished music to relax to.



MOTHERS GARDEN – FUNKY SOUNDS OF FEMALE AFRICA 1975-1984 LP £19.99

In recognition of women's contribution to African music, 'Mother's Garden' highlights some of the prime examples of female fronted soul and funk numbers between 1975-1984. South-African Letta Mbulu drops her take on "Kilimanjoro, Take Us Higher", a pulsating disco banger while Uta Bella ploughs the same glitterball path with "Enyin". Mona Finnih's more laid back "Ani Kewa Jo" is a boogie funkier while the Island influenced "Time Waits For No One" by Christy brings a chilled reggae touch. The mid tempo "Nou Ke Sa Inmew" from Cida Desvarieux has a laid back groove reminiscent of West Coast 80s soul, the obscure "Tala Tala" from Carmen Ezumah has a haunting Eastern feel while the Nigerian Lijadu sisters (dubbed "the West African Pointer Sisters") drop the funky "Danger", complete with its

immense B-line. Kenyan Bakambi N'Kela's stripped back afro-funk "Kilimanjoro" is a real gem while Miriam Makeba's "Xica Da Silva" has some Central American influences creeping in. Great comp!



LEROY HUTSON – UNFORGETTABLE CD £12.99/LP £19.99

'Unforgettable' was the 7th and final album that Leroy Hutson recorded for Curtom. This new reissue comes with 3 bonus tracks on the CD version while the LP is the standard album as issued in 1979. You can tell from the cover where Leroy was going with this album – one look at the glitterball shimmer of his sequined jacket tells us that he'd moved into disco territory here. However, the popping, funky groove of 'So Nice' sees the familiar Hutson sound in full effect, 'More Where That Came From' merges disco touches with an orchestrated boogie groove' while 'Right Or Wrong' has a swirling, bustling kind of vibe to it. The bonus cuts on the CD include the angular boogie of 'Now That I Found You' and the tough electro soul of 'Love You Down', both never issued at the time.



LEROY HUTSON – LOVE OH LOVE CD £12.99/LP £19.99

'Love Oh Love' was Leroy Hutson's first album after leaving the Impressions and was his solo debut on Curtom. This new reissue comes with 3 bonus tracks on the CD version while the LP is the standard album as issued in 1973. The title track 'Love Oh Love' is a classic, full of plaintive emotion and sweeping orchestration, the mellow, quiet fire gem 'When You Smile' and the pleading beat ballad 'So In Love With You'. The laid back drama of the instrumental 'Getting It On' adds a different dimension to the set, the deep groove of 'Time Brings About A Change' is a strong message song while the emphatic crescendo of 'I'll Still Be There, I'll Still care' has some lush stings and soaring backing. Also check out the popping 'As Long As There's Love Around'. The three bonus cuts on the CD are versions of album tracks. Great

album!



[LIVING COLOR – PLASTIC PEOPLE 7” £10](#)

Originally released in 1974 on the tiny Sophisticated Funk imprint, this Charlotte, North Carolina one-off has been lovingly reissued bringing it to a wider audience. Hints of ghetto-boogie with a socially conscious message mix with an irresistible dance groove thanks to a wiry clavinet line running through, this is a sure-fire party starter: a hidden rare groove gem.



[INFINTY – QUEEN OF MY UNIVERSE 7” £11](#)

Long held as a ‘grail’ among modern soul collectors, ‘Queen Of My Universe’ is the perfect example of ‘funky modern’: soulful vocals atop a tough, solid dance groove. Originally released on George Kerr’s NY Willkerr imprint, the group were also responsible for the ode to infidelity ‘Put Everything In Place’ on the White Horse logo, also now issued on AOTN as part of a two record deal with writer Moses Tribbey. Grab them both!



[JEAN CARNE: DON'T LET IT GO TO YOUR HEAD - THE ANTHOLOGY 2CD £15.99](#)

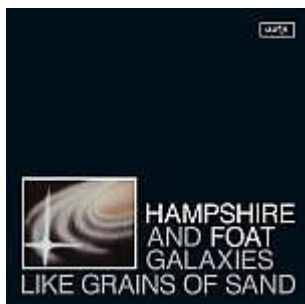
This 33 track anthology focuses on a four-album period at Philadelphia International Records (1976-1981) and includes a wealth of classics and much loved favourites. The set kicks off with the emphatic ‘Free Love’, the pulsating ‘If You Wanna Go Back’ races along while boogie groove of ‘Happy To be With You’ is a bright, crisp modern dancer. The huge favourite ‘Don’t Let It Go To Your Head’ is probably her best vocal performance with Jean’s voice working through several octaves all the time with superb control and mastery. The disco ‘Was That All It Was’ is presented in full 12” form, ‘My Love Don’t Easy’ is a timeless classic, the duet with Glenn Jones on ‘Sweet And Wonderful’ is faultless while the taut boogie of ‘Love’s In Your Corner’ with Norman Connors is a strong dancer. The list of guest collaborators includes Roy

Ayers, Grover Washington, Dexter Wansel, Michael Henderson and Al Johnson, the latter on the anthemic ‘I’m Back For More’.



[LAKESIDE - YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND/KEEP ON MOVING STRAIGHT AHEAD/UNTOUCHABLES 2CD £13.99](#)

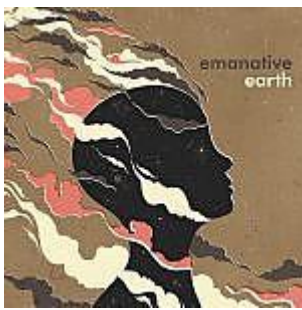
The early 80s were a busy, productive time for Dayton, Ohio 9 piece funk band Lakeside and these three albums on 2 CDs were cut between 81-83. Standout cuts on this 28 track, 2 CD set include the bumping funkier ‘The Urban Man’, the slick boogie of ‘Special, the bright modern dancer ‘Keep On Moving Straight Ahead’, the soulful groove of ‘It’s Got To Be Love’ as well as the stepper ‘Anything For You’. The breezy ‘So Let’s Love’, ‘Keep on Moving Straight Ahead’ and ‘So Let’s Love’ are also strong moments on a set that shows how solid and consistent this outfit were.



[HAMPSHIRE AND FOAT – GALAXIES LIKE GRAINS OF SAND LP £24.99](#)

Welcome repress of this much praised slab of modern British jazz that draws on a deep trough of influences including library, film noir and Americana laced with new classical, minimalism, Jazz and Folk. UK Jazz Pianist Greg Foat and “The Bees” member and multi instrumentalist Warren Hampshire pool their considerable talents on an album that evades definition. ‘A Long Way Home’ is drenched in the atmosphere of a sweltering night sometime in 1976, ‘All Washed Up’ has the air of a surreal mystery while ‘How The Nights Can Fly’ has a spiritual vibe that simultaneously manages to stay superbly left field. ‘End Song’ couples a simple drum machine with soaring strings, the title track again uses the metronomic electronic beat to keep time against sparkling keys and mournful wind instruments. ‘The Solar Winds

(and Cadenza)’ has a more tightly bound structure with those tinkling keys leading the way ahead of a low bass line and brushed drums. So much invention here. This truly is a quiet, modern masterpiece that demands your full attention. Don’t miss this.



[EMANATIVE – EARTH CD £12.99/2LP £21.99](#)

Drummer and producer Nick Woodmansey leads the Emanative project on a set of multi-cultural UK jazz tracks that draw on African, Indian and Middle Eastern influences. 'Earth' is the first full length for the outfit since 2015 in counts acclaimed players such as Ackamoor of US spiritual jazz legends The Pyramids, Afrobeat legend Dele Sosimi (previously of Fela Kuti's Africa 80), Manchester's Nat Birchall and The Heliocentrics' Malcolm Catto among others. Highlights include the percussive, East African groove of 'Heaven's Mirror', the Nile-dub of 'Spice Routes' feat. Nat Birchall, the jaunty tempo of 'Reflection' feat Liz Elensky on vocals, the spiritual vocal of 'New Day' as well as the beat heavy 'Minutes To Midnight For This Planet'. 'Raga Requiem' is also a strong point on an album that shows how strong UK

jazz is right now.

masterpiece



[MASTERPIECE 25 CD £14.99](#)

This much loved series reaches the quarter century mark and as ever the focus is on classic and lesser heard eighties disco funk gems. Breakwater's 'No Limit' is presented in its extended version, Teddy Pendergrass offers up his 'You And Me For Right Now', Marvin Holmes' electro soul 'Feel So Good' is a highlight, while Con Funk Shun's wiry 'If You're In Need' is classic early 80s boogie. 'Somebody's Loving You' by Enchantment, 'Blown It' from The Cool Notes and Black Ivory 'You Are My Lover' are also strong points on another solid offering.



[MIDNIGHT STAR - NO PARKING ON THE DANCEFLOOR/PLANETARY INVASION/HEADLINES 2 CD £13.99](#)

This 2CD set includes three classic Midnight star albums from a period between 83 to 86. 'No Parking...' included the two Smash R&B Hits 'Freak-A-Zoid' and 'Wet My Whistle' and the single 'No Parking (On The Dancefloor)'. The ballad 'Feels So Good' is a highlight, too. 'Planetary Invasion' includes the #1 R&B single 'Operator' as well as 'Body Snatchers'. Headlines includes the huge hits 'Midas Touch' and 'Headlines' while 'Stay Here By My Side' will please fans of the group's more soulful side.



[SOUTHERN AVENUE – SOUTHERN AVENUE CD £13.99/LP £19.99](#)

Memphis, Tennessee five-piece Southern Avenue release their debut album in the form 'Southern Avenue' and the lyrically minimal introduction 'Don't Give Up' is a gospel/blues slab of southern roots. The plaintive 'It's Gonna Be Alright' has tinges – musically - of Leon Bridges while their version of Ann Peebles 'Slipped, Tripped and Fell In Love' is a pulsating cover. They draw on Al Green influences on the beat ballad 'Love Me Right', 'Wildflower' is a more spacious, dreamy mid tempo effort that borders Jazz but breaks into a blues mode in the second half while 'Peace Will Come' returns the band back to that swampy, rootsy sound that they are lauded for.



[JACKSON SISTERS – JACKSON SISTERS CD £11.99/LP £21.99](#)

Incredibly for a group as talented as the Jackson Sisters this self-titled set from this Detroit based five piece sibling act was their sole album release and was released in 1976. Maybe by the mid-70s their brand of funky soul was already out-dated with Disco beginning to really take hold. 'Miracles' is undoubtedly their signature tune and differs slightly here from the 7" cut, the irresistible funky soul of 'Boy You're Dynamite' has that bubbling, infectious dance tempo that gives it a soaring feel while 'Rocking On My Porch' has a southern lilt. Their version of Aretha's 'Rock Steady' is as tough and funky a cover as you'd ask for while the skipping, northern soul of 'Shake You Loose' reminds of Gladys Knight in her more uptempo moments.

Great album



[CLUB CLASSICS - 50 YEARS OF NORTHERN SOUL 2LP £19.99](#)

28 track double vinyl collection of Classic Northern Soul sounds that traces of timeline from the early days of the R&B and mod tunes through to the Wigan Casino and to the later discs that would be championed at places like Blackpool Mecca's Highland Room. Benny Spellman's 'Fortune Teller', Ruby Andrews' 'Just Loving You', Sidney Barnes' 'I Hurt On The Other Side' and Maurice Williams & The Zodiacs' 'Being Without You' mix with The Anderson Brothers' 'I Can See Him Loving You', Ann Sexton 'You've Been Gone Too Long', Gil Scott-Heron & Brian Jackson 'The Bottle', Skull Snaps 'I'm Your Pimp' and Connie Laverne's 'Can't Live Without You' among many others. FORTHCOMING



MICHON YOUNG - LOVE, LIFE, EXPERIENCES VOL 2 : DRIVING TO PURPOSE CD £14.99

Michigan soulstress Michon Young follows up 2016's much acclaimed debut 'Love, Life, Experiences' with this second volume that continues in that old-school meets contemporary soul vein on a 14 track set that will please her fans. Vocally compared to Anita Baker and Phyllis Hyman, Michon delivers the narratives with a sultry swagger. The funky 'Go Get It', the jazzy inflected smooth grooves of 'It's All About Me' and the summery vibe of 'Good Feeling' are standouts. The Baker influences are strongest on the quiet storm, early 80s feel of 'Under The Moonlight', 'Let's Go To Work' has a powerful, driving beat matching the empowerment

lyrics, 'Simply Easy Love' is a understated but infectious free-soul gem with a breezy vibe while 'Stay Like This Forever' brings to mind hints of 'Be Thankful For What You Got'. The off beat tempo of the jazz ballad 'Driving To Purpose' provides a showcase for her vocal talents while the 'bonus' track 'Waiting On You' I another strong highlight – an uplifting soulful gospel number.



MICHAEL FRANKS – THE MUSIC IN MY HEAD CD £13.99

'The Music In My Head' is Michael Franks' first album for seven years and his eighteenth in a career stretching over 45 years! Considered a pillar of 'quiet storm' this album is full of breezy, smooth and gently percussive West Coast jazzy soul, sung with Franks delicately uttered easy going, breathy voice. If you like the vocals of Moses Allison with a blend of Brazilian inspired rhythms and a laid back, early 80s cali-groove you'll love this. The smooth samba of 'Suddenly Sci-Fi' mingles with the funkier bump of 'The Idea Of A Tree', 'To Spend The Day With You' is a so laid back it's almost horizontal while 'Bebop Headshop' has the smoky atmosphere of a jazz supper club. The opener 'As Long As We're Both Together' is a highlight, too, with clean and clear guitar and slick keys of the sadly departed Chuck Loeb's

gracing this track.



STANLEY CLARKE BAND – THE MESSAGE CD £13.99

Bassist Stanley Clarke and his band are still wowing crowds across the globe with their brand of dirty, angular funk and 'The Message' and this album comes 45 years of the four-time grammy award winning artist's debut. The gritty 'And Ya Know We're Missing You' is a sweltering slab of P-Funk, the expansive ballad 'Lost In A World', the thumping funk of 'To Be Alive' and the crashing experimentalism of 'Enzo's Theme' are highlights. The album of recorded during a tour of Europe with the band including input from Doug E. Fresh and trumpeter Mark Isham



MAURICE MOORE – MAURICE LP £19.99

Super-obscure self-produced and funded 1976 project from Warren, Ohio this album has long been lauded as a grail among collectors and finally it's been issued on a very limited pressing of 300 copies. If private, homemade funky soul is your thing then Maurice Moore's self-titled full length will be your thing. The spacey synth lead 'Freeway – In' is an expansive groover, the album version of 'Everything That Shines Ain't Gold' differs greatly from the 7" cut and is more laid back and funky while 'You're My World' is a strung out indie ballad. 'Coming Together' has a wonderfully earthy atmosphere, 'I Don't Want Nobody' is a pulsating funkier while 'Baby Don't Go' again sees Maurice in plaintive ballad mood. Realistically this reissue is the only chance you're going to get to hear this brief moment in time from a studio somewhere

in Ohio in the mid 70s.