



ALBUMS OF THE YEAR



ISSUES OF THE YEAR

**SOUL BROTHER
RECORDS
BEST ALBUMS
AND SINGLES
OF 2018**



SINGLES OF THE YEAR



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BEST SOUL ALBUMS OF THE YEAR 2018



THE SUFFERS – EVERYTHING HERE CD £12.99/LP £21.99

Houston based multi-piece The Suffers, lead by the powerful voice of Kam Franklin, have delivered a strong second album that deserves its place in the top soul releases of the year. The timeless, vintage full band sound, the tight melodies steeped in references to a golden past and the dynamic tones of the lead vocalist combine to create a set that will be on repeat play for a long time. The sprawling 'I Think I Love You' is

sun drenched soul with jazz tints, the playful 'Do Whatever' is a bouncy, light hearted and uplifting groove while the poly rhythmic 'The One About Sace' allows Kam's incredible vocals to shine on a superbly inventive, infectious tune that is impossible not to move to. The pacey, summery groove of 'What You Said' has that Incognito style percussion and keys vibe, the more laid back 'All I Wanna Do' and 'Remain' excel in their use of space while 'Charlotte' and 'After The Storm' are good ballad duets. 'Mammas' is a stunning crossover gem that sees Kam slipping into that throaty Anita Baker style of delivery while the soft swagger of 'You Only Call' is a mellow groover that bubbles away under the surface. They close out this 15 track set with stunning southern beat ballad 'Won't Be Here Tomorrow'. Superb album. Essential.



TATIANA LADY MAY MAYFIELD – THE NEXT CHAPTER CD £19.99

Six years after her highly acclaimed 'Portrait Of Lady May' album was released Tatiana Ladymay Mayfield returns with 'The Next Chapter' and the soul jazz fusion with those sweet strong vocals is back in full effect. The irresistible foottapping groove of 'I Want More', the laid back jazzy washes of 'Me And You' and the organic, soaring feel of 'Overflow'

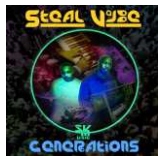
really kick the set off well. 'Insomnia' has an emphatic, building quality and again straddles soul and jazz perfectly with her talented band laying down a tight groove, the acapella 'Starting Over' demonstrates the strength of her voice while the album is bookended with two 10 minute + tracks that allow Mayfield and the band to emphasise the message. The social politically charged 'Freedom' is a delicate protest song while 'The Next Chapter' gives Tatiana room to scat over the swagging funky groove that builds to a crescendo. A strong return.



ISAIAH SHARKEY – LOVE LIFE LIVE CD £17.99

Grammy award winning Isiah Sharkey is maybe better known for working with the likes of D'Angelo, Lalah Hathaway, Anderson Paak and Brian McKnight among others but on his debut album 'Love Life Live' he shows that he's a talent as a front man too. The Don Blackman/D'Angelo groove of 'Pop My Toes' is a great, low slung funkier, the chilled out 'Heaven' again shows D'Angelo influences but has that old

school thread running throughout while the infectious 'Special Lady' is a modern soul gem. The slow tempo 'LH' has a sultry, languorous feel that really grows, the vintage, swinging groove of 'Believe' is coupled with a Curtis-esque falsetto and lyrics to match while the title track gets back to the bass lead funk of the opening track. Excellent stuff.



STEAL VYBE – GENERATIONS CD £17.99

We have a quality soulful house album from Steal Vybe. 'Generations', is a feel-good album that is comprised of multiple genres of music tied into a hybrid style of dance music that contains elements from r&b/soul, jazz, nu jazz, funk, afro, disco, loft disco, broken-beat, drum & bass, samba. Latin, 80s boogie back, soulful house, and much more than meets the ear. A top drawer selection of guests,

Alexa Gold, Fertile Ground, Kenny Bobien, Lifford Shillingford, Monday Michiru, Omar, Peven Everett, Sara Devine, Sheree Hicks, Stephanie Renée, Trizonna McClendonan, Ursula Rucker and more. Don't sleep on this gem!



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 soundscapes 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.



NATASHA WATTS – MY NEXT CHAPTER CD £14.99

UK Singer-song-writer Natasha Watts impressed with 2016's 'Second Time Around' and her new album, created with input from Richard Earnshaw, Josh Milan, Soul Persona, Simon 'Schooly' Phillips, Benji Ranks and Kelvin Sylvester, is a strong return. 'My Next Chapter' documents familiar themes of love, hope, passion and regret all delivered with Natasha's powerful, assured vocals. 'I Do, I Did, I'm Done' is a

smooth, multi-layered slice of modern soul, 'It's All Good' has some deliciously vintage touches while 'Enjoy Yourself' rides on a funky B-line and a warm keyboard riff that create a jazz feel. The big, boogie feel of 'L.O.V.E' is a strong mid-tempo clubber, 'Out Of My Mind' is a pacier dance number that again shines with a delightful throwback groove while 'Talk To Me' has a juicy bump in the rhythm. The summery, positive vibe of 'Special Day' works well with Natasha's fine, effortless vocals, 'Only You' again slips into jazz soul territory and is the pick of the slower tracks while 'Fly Away' is a big, bustling soulful house number aimed solely at the feet. The album is wrapped up with the Island influenced 'Baby, Baby, Baby' that offers a sunny, upbeat end to a superb album. Essential for soul fans.



CORNELL CC CARTER – ONE LOVE CD £15.99

San Francisco Cornell CC Carter follows up his much praised 'VindicatedSoul' set from 2018 with his new offering 'One Love' that features production work from the likes of Morgan Howell (Soulpersona, UK), Brian Brazier, David Council, and Kirk Crumpler. There's an oldskool feel about the album with 'Winners' and 'Relax' sounding like late 80s dance grooves, 'Badeyah' is another, more contemporary slab of modern soul while the relaxed tempo of 'Free'

brings some contrast. The rich, percussive 'One Love' has shades of Marvin, the bubbling 'That's My Baby' and the mellow stepper 'Maybe' both score high while the expansive, mid tempo 'Life' is a gem. Also check the warm grooves of 'That Feelin' and the sumptuous 'Getaway' for more highlights. Another strong set that will please his fans and earn new followers.



ALI SHAHEED MUHAMMAD AND ADRIAN YOUNGE PRESENT THE MIDNIGHT HOUR CD £12.99/2LP £34.99

Ali Shaheed Muhammad of A Tribe Called Quest and composer Adrian Younge have joined forces to create a 20 track gem of an album that includes contributions from Raphael Saadiq, Questlove, Bilal, Digable Planets' Ladybug Mecca, among others. The concept for the album was to celebrate the heritage of black creativity in Harlem from its early days in the 1930s.

The haunting, filmic opener 'Black Beacon' sounds like the theme to an unknown crime drama from the early 70s, the stifled atmosphere of 'It's You' has a basement soul quality while the punchy, stop start groove of 'Questions' merges disparate styles well. Luther Vandross' 'litting 'So Amazing' is sampled and given fresh twist, the gorgeous, summery 'Smiling For Me' features the sweet, easy tones of Karolina while instrumental cuts like 'Gate 54', 'Redneph In B-Minor' and 'Better Endavor' take their cue from the kind of film score sounds that Mayfield and Hayes excelled at. Eryn Allen Kane's powerful tones grace the funkier 'Love Is Free' while Marsha Ambrosius guests on the superb beat heavy soul of 'Don't Keep Me Waiting'. The set is closed out by the superb ghetto funk soundtrack style 'Ravens'. Excellent, rewarding album a long time in the making.

BEST SOUL ALBUMS OF THE YEAR 2018



AGAPE SOUL - CONVERSATIONS CD £17.99

Bassist Darryl Anders releases his band's much anticipated second album, a follow up to 2012 'Believe In Love' and the wait was worth it. Real instruments, strong song writing and quality production mark 'Conversations' as one of the best of the year. The uplifting 'Believe' is a positive message song with a strong groove. 'Changes' has a strong soul-jazz flavour while the mid tempo bluesy beat ballad 'The Lesson' is another highlight. The funky 'Fruitvale Gumbo' has a bouncy New Orleans groove to it, 'Think About It' is another old school funk with vocals from Nate SoulsSanger and a screaming killer organ line running in and out while 'Sweet Sticky Thing' features Graham Central Station singer Ashling Cole

and the Snarky Puppy horns. The easy 'Conversations' is a rapid fire, bustling early 80s inspired groove that wraps up a set that will please fans of funkier edged jazzy inspired soul. Great album.



BRANDON COLEMAN - RESISTANCE CD £11.99/2LP £26.99

'Resistance' is keyboardist, vocalist, composer, producer and arranger Brandon Coleman's second album and the regular member of Kamasi Washington's band serves up a superb hybrid of influences on this grower of an album. The vocals major on the use of the vocoder that was an often used effect on early 80s boogie (think Herbie Hancock) and the vibe of the set has that throwback feel with jazz, disco, boogie, R&B, electro, soul and Funk all thrown into Coleman's musically cosmic pot. The disco swagger of 'Live For Today', the sassy 'All Around The World' and the nu-disco of 'Addiction' are highlights. N'Dambi features on the sparkling, soaring mid tempo 'Sundae' while thematic feel of 'Resistance' brings to mind the disco-funk and friend Kamasi Washington. The lazy 'Reach For The Stars' forgoes groove with multi-layered vocals that make the track soar while the angular beauty of 'Love' is another dancefloor turner.

CONYA DOSS - CLEAR CD £13.99

The inimitable Ms Doss returns three years after 2015's 'VII' with a stunning new set of sophisticated soul that adds to her expanding catalogue of faultless albums. 'Clear' sets out its tone early with the infectious, growl-funk swagger of 'Back To Us', the tinkling piano lead 'Unti' has some beautiful flourishes that lift the track into a series of barely restrained, all the time under pinned by Conya's classy vocals while deep, clubby 'Get Off Your @##' is a serious contender for dance track of the year - the growling bassline just implores you to move! The multi-layered vocals of 'Give You All My Love' work with the ebb and flow of the keyboards, 'Don't Rain On My Parade' is a stop-start, jazzy funkster with a light hearted touch, the luscious mid tempo 'I'm Trying' is another strong point while the full production of 'Let's Put In The Time' has an emphatic quality that rides on the irresistible foot tapping groove. The dreamy 'Unbreakable' is also a pick of the best ballads. Conya's voice is superb, the music is live band and the way and the song writing is as good as ever. Another essential offering.



REEL PEOPLE - RETROFECTION CD £13.99/2LP £27.99

Incredibly Old Lazarus' Reel People project is almost 20 years old and the quality is as strong as ever on this 12 track album of artfully crafted covers, aptly named 'Retrofection'. The line-up of guest vocalists is an embarrassment of riches with luminaries such as Mica Paris, Omar, Angie Stone, Tony Morrell and Anthony David among others adding their contributions. Hard to pick standouts on an album that is so well crafted as a whole - check Basement Jaxx songstress Sharlene Hector's uplifting take on 'Always There', Mica Paris' cover of Alicia Myers Gospel-Soul 'I Want To Thank You' is an inspired choice while Yarbrough & Peoples' 'Don't Stop The Music' is given a new twist by Angie Stone. Tony Morrell's vocals glow on his cover of Bill Withers' 'Can We Pretend', the ridiculously funky take on Pleasure's 'Joyous' is a highlight while Skipworth & Turner's 'Thinking About You' Mr Love. Anthony David's take on Milton Wright's 'Keep It Up' is another stunner. Much more to enjoy and discover here, too - highly recommended stuff that fans of classic and modern souls will love.

Omar's unique tones grace



ROBB SCOTT - SIREN CD £12.99

UK Musician, singer, songwriter, composer, arranger and producer Robb Scott has created an album of classy soul/jazz grooves on Siren that has jazz at its heart but with some superb soulful brushstrokes applied. The stunning 'Neptune Atmosphere' features Gina Foster on vocals, the wonderful, breezy bossa of 'California Suite Revue' sounds as if it belongs three decades earlier while the beautiful 'Hummingbird' shimmers with pools of percussion set among the serene soul jazz soundscapes. 'Winter Love' is yet another strong cut as is the restrained boogie groove of 'Keep On'. 'Circle' is a spacey, multi-layered rhythmic jazz vocal while the gorgeous 'Venue In Virgo' has a wonderfully probing feel that feels around before coming together then falling away again. 'Siren: Doyenne' has a smoky jazz club atmosphere of 'Negative Play' again rides on that easy bossa beat. Stunning, excellently crafted and unique: don't miss this!

before coming together then falling away again. 'Siren: Doyenne' has a smoky jazz club atmosphere of 'Negative Play' again rides on that easy bossa beat. Stunning, excellently crafted and unique: don't miss this!



SOUTHERN AVENUE - SOUTHERN AVENUE CD £13.99/2LP £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/la of southern roots. The plaintive 'It's Gonna Be Alright' has tingles - musically - of Lonnie Bridges while their version of Ann Peebles' 'Slipped, Tripped and Fell In Love' is a putative 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.



GRAMMY award winner Louie Vega is known worldwide as one of the finest creators and purveyors of house music, both as an individual artist / producer / DJ. He is back with a new album for Nervous records NYC Disco. Louie and Michael Weiss (Sam Records) both share a desire to constantly promote quality music that is both song and rhythm based and this desire inspired them to take this endeavour a step further, and to create brand new songs. As always with Louie the album features a star studded cast: Luther Vandross, Patrick Adams, Rochelle Fleming, Barbara Tucker, Be Be Winans, Josh Milan, Cindy Mizelle, Sharon Bryant, Anane and The Martinez Brothers. Standout tracks, well I could list them all but they are lauded for.

here's just a few. 'He Promised Me', 'Get Myself Together', 'Get With The Funk', 'Love Fantasy', and 'Cosmic Disco'. Don't miss this one!



RONNIE WRIGHT - A.K.A BESPEAK CD £14.99

Coming a few years after his acclaimed Bespeak Love project Ronnie Wright drops another set of sophisticated, grown folks soul in the form of 'A.K.A Bespeak'. Ronnie has worked with Musiq Soulchild and Mint Condition among many others so he has a rich pedigree. Tracks like 'Stand', 'Your Love' and 'I'll Always Love You' have a funkier edge while the slight jazz guitar twist of 'For Always' creates a smooth, towing feel. Wright excels on the slower ballads like 'Love Play' and 'Forever' but good contrast is found in the fuller band sound of 'Adore' that again blend soul with a relaxed jazz vibe.



K. AVETT - LIONESS CD £15.99

'Lioness' is the highly anticipated Sophomore album from Texas-based K. Avett and the blend of styles across this ten track offering works well with Ms Avett's voice that has sass and swagger in equal measure - there are touches of N'Dambi in places but she has her own distinctive tone. The organic, jazzy soul of 'Feelin Good' brings to mind early Ledis. Noel Gouldin guests on the superb, funky edged 'Soldier', the mellow 'What Are We Here For' is a blissful mid-tempo gem while 'Dame Mass' and 'Time Won't wait' are sumptuous beat ballads that remind, musically of mid 70s Islesy at their most laid back: warm summer grooves with bubbling percussion and sweet riffs. 'Thank I Had Enough' has an infectious, lilting and 'Lioness' come closer to contemporary R&B but with an indie edge.

dance groove while 'Down' Very good album.



CRACK OF DAWN - SPOTLIGHT CD £14.99

Canadian group Crack Of Dawn released two albums between 1976 and 1981 before disappearing from the radar until they remerged in 2017 with their third album 'Spotlight'. The latest incarnation of the band includes core members from nearly 40 years ago and the sound on 'Spotlight' bears the hallmarks of soaking up four decades of musical influence while keeping things firmly old school. The band's signature tune 'Crack Of Dawn' is a good, funky soul opener, 'Somebody's Watchin' You' and 'Boobie Ruby' are real vintage grooves while they revisit their cover of the Chuck Jackson penned 'It's Alright' (This feeling I'm Feeling). The title track 'Spotlight' is a good ballad while the mid tempo 'Your Love' also works well. The band find familiar territory in the band funk groove with 'Changes'. Well worth investing in this for a strong dose of old school soul!

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SYLEENA JOHNSON - THE REBIRTH OF SOUL CD £13.99

Syleena Johnson's 'Rebirth Of Soul' may come as a surprise to many who were expecting her latest offering to follow a similar path to her previous output - contemporary soulful edged R&B. This 10 track album is pure throwback pop consisting entirely of covers of classic and more obscure soul numbers from the 60s and 70s and it's executed to perfection. With a live band in the studio (including some of Chicago's best) and her father Syl on production the result is a well polished modern take on vintage soul. Syleena's version of 'It Is Because I'm Black' is superb, Curtis 'The Makings of You' is delicately handled while she does justice to Etta's 'I'd Rather Go Blind' - no mean feat! The close up feel of 'Chain Of Fools' gallops along with Syleena's voice sounding confident and powerful while 'We Did It' and 'Make Me Yours' offer an upbeat vibe to the album.

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JOHN REID - NIGHTCRAWLERS SOUL SESSIONS CD £13.99

Singer/songwriter John Reid who gained wide acclaim for his work with dance act Nightcrawlers (best known for the global hit 'Push The Feeling On') delivers his debut album in the form of 'Nightcrawlers Soul Sessions', a 13 track soulful groove set that has a slick, polished sound that will appeal to fans of the likes of boogie and 2-step from the past and present. 'All Night Long' is driven by a rolling bass ala Breakwater/Atlantic Starr, the popping rhythms of 'If It's Love You Want' and the sweet stepper 'You And Me Against The World' are highlights while 'I Need Your Love' sounds like every great element of early 80s modern soul rolled into one track! 'Love Come Back' is a quintessential beat ballad. 'Waiting In Your Arms' is a throwback to soulful disco while 'I'm A Soulful Dancer' while the Soul Reflex version of 'Push The Feeling On' is also a winner. Highly recommended contemporary grooves that draw from a deep retro well.

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DIANE SHAW - SECOND CHANCE CD £13.99/2LP £19.99

Three years on from her debut album Diane Shaw returns with her follow up 'Second Chance' and the feel is similar to her previous offering with strong, retro styled soul underpinned with good songwriting and strong instrumentation. 'Remember Me' has a Dee Edwards/Ruby Andrews feel in the vocals, the title track 'Second Chance' is a sublime crossover number that sounds like it was lifted straight from the mid 70s, the mid tempo 'Love Has No Right' is a fantastic, infectious groove while the slower 'All Or Nothing' is a delightful, laid back ballad. 'The Day I Found Myself' sounds primed for northern soul dancefloors with its skipping tempo, the catchy 'Shall I Wait For You' is a classy beat ballad while the bright rhythm of '(Come Back) Halfway' has a late 60's feel in the arrangements and again sounds like it would work on the Northern scene. A strong follow up that will appeal to many.

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TOWER OF POWER - SOUL SIDE OF TOWN CD £13.99/2LP £24.99

'Soul Side Of Town' marks Oakland legends Tower Of Power's 50th Anniversary and founding members Emilio Castillo and Stephen 'Doc' Kupka are responsible for the 14 original tracks here. 'Do You Like That' is timeless - classic T.O.P - razor sharp horns, bubbling bass and a soulful, jazzy, soaring melody that rules the dancefloor. 'East Bay With Soul' is a thundering, rapid fire funkier, while the ballad 'Love Must Be Patient And kind' shows the more mellow side. 'Butter Fried' is a big, heavy funk number that allows Roger Smith to give the Hammond B3 some welly, while 'Let it Go' sounds like the guys sent themselves back to 1979 to revisit a classic mid tempo soul effort. 'After Hours' throws it back to classic funk, jazz and soul. 'Stop Stop Thinking About You' again shows the chilled side of the band. 'East Bay! Oakland Style' bookends the set with a signature hard, brassy funk number. Great stuff.

Tower of People while 'Can't Stop Thinking About You' again shows the chilled side of the band. 'East Bay! Oakland Style' bookends the set with a signature hard, brassy funk number. Great stuff.



LINDSEY WEBSTER - LOVE INSIDE CD £13.99

Lindsey Webster has established herself as one of the leading Jazzy Soul singers of her generation. She has a beautiful voice that is very easy on the ear and this very enjoyable new set of quality tunes can only enhance her reputation. 'Love inside' is a lovely mid tempo soul, 'A Love Before' has more tempo with a tight backbeat, whilst 'Free To Be Me' and 'Opportunity 2.0' are lovely funky slice of soul. 'The Love I Found On Me', 'One Last Time', 'Walk Away', 'Bad Manner' and the lilting 'It's Not You It's.' are also good mid tempo songs. Quality music throughout, this is a great listening album.



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 soul 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 infected 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 funk' of 'The Love I Found On Me'. 'Love' has a powerful, driving beat matching the empowerment lyrics. 'Simply Easy' is also good mid tempo songs. Quality music throughout, this is a great listening album.

'Love' is a understated but infectious soul song 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' showcases a showcase for her vocal talents while the bonus track 'Waiting On You' another strong highlight - an uplifting soulful gospel number.

BEST SOUL ALBUMS OF THE YEAR 2018



BASHIRYA – INDEPENDENT CD £15.99

British Soul singer Bashirya possesses a wonderful smooth soulful voice and this strong collection of 17 songs will further establish her as one of our leading contemporary independent artists. 'Delightful' is a lovely uplifting mid tempo luxury soul cut with a Bossa groove. 'Mother Earth' is an outstanding lyrically strong atmospheric horn backed down tempo groove. 'Just Can't Be Wrong' is a killer slow jam, the best we've heard in a while. 'Independent' and 'Loneliness' are good ballads that really illustrate Bashirya's voice whilst 'It's Working Out' a good mid tempo groover. 'Life's So Fun', 'I Want Chu Back' and 'Mystified' are all good up tempo tracks. 'Independent' is a really good new Soul album that gets better on each play.



TY CAUSEY – MR MELLOW CD £14.99

Smooth-voiced Ty Causey is probably one of the most prolific artists around with the aptly titled 'Mr Mellow' being his 15th album since his debut 'Love Notes' back in 2005. The slick opener 'Shake & Dance' is an easy flowing groover that finds Ty's voice in better shape than ever, the poppin' 'Feelin' That Vibe' has a slight 90s feel while the swaggering boogie of 'I Can't Let Go' is another of the more uptempo highlights. 'Mr Mellow' has a more laid back vibe. 'Don't Stop (Let The Feelin' Flow)' is a strong beat ballad while 'Nobody Like You' has some nice jazzy touches. Ty references his favourite artists on the tribute-filled 'Turn It up (That's My Jam)', the slow burn 'I Just Love Ya' is the pick of the ballads while the funky 'Love Will Always Find A Way' is an infectious groover. Another solid offering from this talented singer/producer/songwriter.

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DETROIT RISING – A COSMIC JAZZ FUNK ADVENTURE CD £16.99/PL £24.99

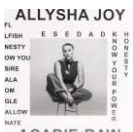
With a line-up of musicians and vocalists from the likes of P-Funk, Parliament and Herbie Hancock as well as Prince and Bootsy joining United Sound Detroit, this fuzz funk, cosmic soul and spaced out jazz fusion collision will appeal to people into old school funk with a new twist. The laid back jazzy funk of 'Lashing Out', the Hancock vibes of the superb 'What's That You Heard' and the dreamy soul of 'Gorgeous' are highlights, as are the Gary Bartz feel of 'With Peace And Harmony' and the tough boogie of 'Little Bit'.

Strong, tight funk for 2018 sent from beyond.



JAMES HUNTER SIX – WHATEVER IT TAKES CD £13.99/PL £19.99

This third album for Daptone for the much revered James Hunter Six, 'Whatever It Takes' follows the same stylistic path that the previous two albums (and much of Hunter's earlier work) follows: a late 50s/early 60s Rhythm and Soul blueprint that sounds both timeless and current in equal measure. Working with Bosco Mann clearly works for the band and the songwriting is strong. The snaking 'I Don't Wanna Be Without You' is a joy – that barely restrained emotion being just held in check by James, the more upbeat 'Whatever It Takes' carries the song's message along on the infectious finger clicking groove while 'I Got Eyes' is a pacey, uptempo number that will be a dancer's delight. There's a good balance of ballads here, the best of which are the sassy 'It Was Gonna Be You' and the spacious 'Show Her'. James Hunter rarely plays a foot wrong; he and the band are so deeply bedded in this style that it's written and delivered effortlessly. Superb as always.



ALLYSHA JOY – ACADIE:RAW CD £12.99/PL £19.99

'Acadie:Raw' is the debut solo project from Australian singer, producer, songwriter and poet Allysha Joy. Maybe best known for her work with Melbourne Hip Hop collective 30/70 there's a cool about this album that draws on many facets and influences from soul, jazz and hip hop. The feel of 'Selfish', 'Honesty' and 'Eagle' have that hip hop tempo in effect with Allysha's smoky vocals giving a jazz feel to the tracks, the frantic, rapid fire 'Know Your Power' is a big, brusque uptempo number while the dreamy 'Akala' is allowed room to grow and slowly unfold. The jazz club vibe of 'Enlè' is drenched in atmosphere, 'Fnfl' has an ever shifting tempo while 'Swallow Me' has an African feel, particularly in the drums and almost chanted vocals. Great debut set.



ROBIN MCKELLE – MELODIC CANVAS CD £15.99

Robin McKelle last graced us with an album three years ago and she returns with a wonderful set of Gospel laced soulful jazz with hints of blues in the form of 'Melodic Canvas'... a genre straddling work of subtle beauty that blends a smoky jazz atmosphere with Robin's deep, sultry vocals to create an album of sophistication. The funky 'It Won't End Up' is a highlight with its irresistible foot tapping groove, the mellow 'Come To Me' has a sultry, late night feel while 'You're No Good' is more uptempo with some lovely organ tabs and keys helping to build the track into peaks and troughs. McKelle is joined by a soaring backing group on the uplifting 'Yes We Can'. Can't be the rat pack vibe of 'Lyla' sees her assuming the moxie of a big band leader on top form. 'The Sun Died' is a wonderful, bluesy ballad that is revisited as bonus track sung in French at the end of the album. Excellent stuff.



TOM MISCH – GEOGRAPHY CD £11.99/2LP £22.99

South East Londoner Tom Misch releases his highly anticipated debut full length and he's crafted a mature, eclectic set in the form of 'Geography'. The title is apt as musically the space is broad but the standard remains consistently high. 'Before Paris' has a laid back jazz guitar vibe that rolls into the vocal interplay of 'Lost In Paris', the swaggering boogie of 'South Of The River' is a super-catchy funkier, the slower 'Movie' is a great blue-eyed soul ballad with jazz licks, the light bossa shades of 'Runs Through Me' adds to the summery vibe, 'Disco Yes' is exactly what it says – a pounding slab of modern disco with that ever present jazz guitar picking out a rhythm solid mid-tempo head nodding beat. Vocally and in places stylistically similar to Jordan Rakei but both guys have their unique sonic identities. Really good UK talent!

SOULUTIONS – THANKFUL CD £14.99

South East's Soulutions return with their sophomoric set and as ever the tight, late 70s/early 80s soulful dance influences are there. Impeccably played with the accomplished vocals of Louise Meehan at the forefront this will appeal to fans of Tom Gilde/Lisa Stansfield/Diane Shaw etc. The 13 tracks all work well: highlights being 'Get Out', 'Gone in the Blink of an Eye', 'I Got To Party', 'So Wrong So Right' and the Aretha-esq 'Thinking Of You'.



LEON BRIDGES – GOOD THING CD £13.99/PL £21.99

Exceptional follow up to his 2015 debut 'Coming Home', Leon Bridges has developed his style over the past three years and the retro-heavy throwback sound of his previous work has been replaced with a more contemporary feel that is still steeped in classic soul. The modern-meets-vintage opener is a heartfelt ballad that reminds of the earlier set but the deep, warm 4/4 groove of 'Bad Bad News' quickly shows us that he's stepping out of the past with a funky vibe laced with some bubbling jazz guitar licks. 'Shy' is a wonderful, organic mid tempo foot tapper while 'Beyond' is perhaps the track of the album – a sublime ballad with a southern tint that shines the focus Leon's emotive vocals. 'Forgive You' delivers even deeper into the present while the pick of the uptempo tracks comes in the form of the superb, angular boogie of 'If It Feels Good (It Must Be)' and the dancefloor banger 'You Don't Know'. 'Mrs' is as close to a Prince ballad as you can get while 'Georgia To Texas' turns back to the past again but still retains that current feel. Essential album.



SHIRLEY DAVIS & THE SILVERBACKS – WISHES AND WANTS CD £17.99/PL £24.99

British-Jamaican singer Shirley Davis returns with the rock solid 'Silverbacks' to bring us the follow up to 2016's 'Black Rose' album in the form of 'Wishes And Wants'. Davis' strong, distinctive vocals hold their own, especially on the exceptional title track 'Wishes And Wants' – a powerhouse, driving minor-chord funk gem, while the Daptone feel of 'Treat Me Better' is an infectious, pulsating dancer. The rapid-fire 'Nightlife' shows a slight afrofunk feel, especially in the urgent beat and winky rkeys running throughout. 'All About Music' has a skipping groove that would work well on progressive Northern Soul floors while 'Smile' is a dark and light funky crossover dancer. The emphatic 'Troubles And Trials' strips things back to deep, bluesy ballad territory that shines a light on Shirley's stunning vocals while 'Woman Dignity' again delivers into afro-funk territory with a biting pro-femme message delivered with a punch. This album is brilliant!



THE DOGGETT BROTHERS – GET HIGH CD £10.99

Highly respected UK duo The Doggett Brothers are well established on the contemporary scene for their slick, well crafted style of soul drenched in a deep love of classic boogie and dancefloor grooves and 'Get High' is yet another bar raiser in the siblings' repertoire. There's a wealth of great talent on show here: the thumping, muscular opener of the title track 'Get High' features the effortless vocals of Nate James while Coco Malone's sassy tones grace a handful of tracks here including the sun drenched soul of 'California Sunshine', the punchy funk of 'In The Flow' and the cosmic washes of the super chilled out 'Take Your Time'. Hannah Tobias' sweet, ethereal voice compliments the dreamy groove of 'Stumbling', while Thompson's gravely edged vocals work well with the boogie slammer 'You Give Me Something' while that man Jarrod Lawson adds his unmistakable touch to the luscious mid tempo beat ballad 'Don't You Know'. Essential new soul!



CHRIS JASPER – DANCE WITH YOU CD £15.99

FOUNDER member of the Isley Brothers, Chris Jasper is a veteran of the music business and his 15th album, 'Dance With You', the first since 2016, is another selection of smooth grooves and mellow ballads that will please his fans. Highlights include the infectious foot tap 'I Love You' (Boogie Back Remix) the flowing beat ballad 'It's A Miracle' and the super stepper 'Show Somebody Love' and the driving groove of 'That's What Love Can Do'. The tender ballad 'The Love That You Give' and the slowie title track 'Dance With You' are also strong.



MAMA'S GUN – GOLDEN DAYS CD £12.99/PL £15.99

Contemporary, London-based soul five-piece MAMA's Gun have been plying their trade in various forms for over ten years and 'Golden Days' stands as a joyous document of where they are at in 2018. The warm, soaring 'You Make My Life A Better Place' is as positive a message song as you can hope for, 'On The Wire' carries a different narrative and the groove is tougher, the soul-drenched beat ballad 'Diamond In A Bell Jar' is a superb harmony effort while the punchy 'London Girls' rides on a super tight funk beat with some erotic, soulful overtones. The album tracks the into one of the album's standouts. The slick, summery 'We' is delightfully laid back while 'Golden Days' has a languid bitterness tone. The uptempo, crossover feel of 'Strangers On The Street' has some wonderful horn lines among the popping percussion and the on point vocals. Really good album. Check it!



MF ROBOTS – MUSIC FOR ROBOTS CD £12.99/2LP £24.99

MF ROBOTS is the brainchild of former Brand New Heavies' drummer Jan Kincaid who has joined forces with fellow former BNH singer Dawn Joseph. The spread of styles on 'Music For Robots' is broad across this 14 track debut offering, from the urgent dance grooves of 'Whatcha Sayin', 'The Night is Calling' and 'OTM (One Thing Missing)' to the sultry funk 'Give It Up' and the sultry swag of 'The Greatest me And You'. 'Love To Last' is a highlight with its strong, full edged crossover tempo with some wonderful sharp, soaring horns. 'Sweet Harmony' has a killer B-line driving things along while the punchy funk of 'Show Me The Love' has a great sax break along with an irresistible, non-stop dance groove. Don't miss the killer, soulful dancer 'Talk' – another album standout Superb, well rounded album that will please fans of the BNH along with those looking to add more to their collection of modern vintage funky edged grooves.



JORGA SMITH – LOST & FOUND CD £11.99/2LP £26.99

Debut album from Wales's Jorga Smith, 'Lost & Found' is the much anticipated full length from this upcoming artist who won a Brit 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 a age of uncertainty. Vocally she draws inspiration from Lauren Hill and Amy Winehouse but she has her own identity. 'Blue Lights' is a lilting ballad that deals with issues surrounding race, the expansive 'Teenage Baseballs' is literally strong with a laid back feel while the glitch groove of 'On Your Own' is also a highlight. 'The One' slowly peeks and troughs while the pensive 'Tomorrow' has echoes of Corinne Bailey Rae.

THE INTERNET – HAVE MIND CD £13.99/2LP £24.99

Fourth album from this collective that forms one of the many offshoots of Odd Future. The Internet comprise Syd Beatt, Matt Martians, Patrick Miller, Christopher Smith and Steve Lacy. 'Have Mind' is dominated by a laid back, mainly mid tempo vibe that takes it's cue from Hip Hop but adds elements of cold soul, funk and jazz. 'Roll (Burbank Funk)' is an uptempo moment on a sea of calm, chilled grooves like the sultry 'Come Over', the TLC-like 'Wanna Be' and the expansive, cosmic blues of 'It Gets Better (With Time)'. The rough edged 'Bravo' and the boogie swagger of 'Look What You Started' add different flavours on an album designed to move at a mellow pace.

move at a mellow pace.

BEST JAZZ ALBUMS OF THE YEAR 2018



KAMASI WASHINGTON – HEAVEN AND EARTH 2CD £11.99 /4LP SALE PRICE £39.99 UNTIL 6TH AUGUST
Kamasi Washington follows up his aptly titled 'The Epic' with another amazingly creative and spiritual double CD/4LP set. 'Heaven and Earth' is a concept Jazz album steeped in Spirituality, Two and a half hours of Cosmic sounds with 8 tracks on each of two albums 'Earth' and 'Heaven' to soothe your Soul and invigorate your mind. This album will further establish Kamasi

Washington as one of the leading contemporary Jazz artists, but it will also have a broader appeal than his incredible debut. 'Kings Of Fury' is a magnificent track, great instrumentation and strings and that vocal choir, top with sweet vocals almost like something from a 60's film. 'Hub Tones' is a full on belter with reference to the Blue Note sound, whilst the beautiful rhythmic 'Tiffakonkæ' sounds like something Pharoah might have recorded with Lonnie Liston Smith'. 'Testify' is a lovely melodic vocal track. 'Space Traveller's Lullaby' is absolutely beautiful cosmic Jazz, a track to close your eyes to and let yourself wander through Time and Space. 'Vi Lua Vi' is another strong fit a vocoder. 'Song of the fallen' and 'Show us the way' could have been on his The Epic set., whilst 'The Psalmnist' is a wonderful upbeat spiritual jazz workout.



TENDERLONIOUS – THE SHAKEDOWN FEAT. THE 22ARCHESTRA CD £12.99/2LP £25.99

'The Shakedown' is Ed 'Tenderlönious' Cawthorne's debut LP and features a dream team of top talent he named the 22archestra, who he leads seamlessly throughout. Listeners are exposed to the full breadth of Cawthorne's technical and compositional skills, ranging from subtly meandering jazz, to hip hop, Afrobeat, Latin and exhilarating free form jazz. The groups includes former Yussef Kamaal member

Yussef Dayes on drums, Ruby Rushton bassist Fergus Ireland and producers Reginald Omas Mamode IV and Jeen Bello on percussion. Standouts from this top drawer album include 'Expansions', 'Yussef's Groove', 'SV Interlude', 'SV Disco' and 'Red Sky At Night'. The new London jazz scene goes from strength to strength... Don't Sleep!



SEAN KHAN – PALMARES FANTASY CD £12.99/LP £21.99

British saxophonist Sean Khan has recorded a string of interesting quality albums. 'Palmares Fantasy' is one of his best to date featuring 8 self penned songs plus a god cover of a Brazilian classic. The album was recorded n Rio de Janeiro with some great Brazilian musicians incl Ivan Conti (Azymuth) and Hermeto Pascoal.along with members of his band and the great Jim Mullen. 'Moment of Collapse'

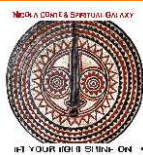
features Heidi Vogels sultry vocals is a beautiful bass propelled orchestrated mid tempo message song. Heidi also sings on the subtly funkier 'Your Way Not My Way', on which Khan plays flute and sax. 'Waltz for Hermeto' and the mystical 'Said' ft Hermeto on melodia, he plays Rhodes on the deeper 'Palmares Fantasy' and 'Montreux'. Sabrina Malheros sings on the nice cover of Sergio Mendes 'Tudo Que Voce Podia Ser'. Really good album, which also benefits from a great sleeve artwork by Swift.



MENAGERIE – ARROW OF TIME CD £11.99/LP £14.99

Superb modal/soul-jazz set from this 'Menagerie' who last delivered 6 years ago in the form of 'They Shall Inherit'. The multi-talented Lance Ferguson (Bamboo's/Cookin' On 3 Burners etc) is among the members here, so you know the standard is high. 'The Arrow Of Time' comprises 5 tracks with the title track coming in at an epic 10:50 minutes of horn lead brilliance with Phil Noy's sax trading with Ross Irwin's

trumpet: both guys are also members of the Bamboos. The spoken word 'Evolution' also brings to mind Kamasi Washington while the funky 'Escape Velocity' harks back to the likes of Dadiis Komolaffe. The funky 'Spiral' has a Strata East feel with an infectious groove while the beautiful 'Nova' is set in waltz time and ebbs and weaves along with a hypnotic feel (even a little Gregory Porter in the melodies that drift out). Stunning work full of integrity and class. Fans of Tribe, Black Jazz and Strata East will enjoy this, along with followers of the new vogue in jazz. Essential.



NICOLA CONTE - LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE ON CD £15.99/2LP £29.99

Nicola Conte returns with a new album 'Let Your Light Shine On' for the revamped MPS label, celebrating its 50th anniversary. There is an Afro centric feel to it. 'Uhuru Na Umoja' has an Afro beat vibe, albeit mid rather than fully up-tempo, a feel that returns for the edgier 'Mystic Revelation Of The Gods'. 'Ogun' is a mellow number with female

African lead courtesy of Zara McFarlane. 'Cosmic

Peace' has funkier dance groove with a great vocal from Bridgette Amofah. She also adds her talents to the driving 'Me Do Who'. There is a Spiritual Jazz angle (a la Pharaoh) to 'Essence Of The Sun', whilst there is a laid-back feel to 'Love Power'. 'Afro Black' ends the set on an Afro Jazz vibe. This is a strong album that takes a spin or two to appreciate. This could well be Nicola's finest album so far and will be one of the jazz albums of the year.



POOGIE BELL BAND – EXHIBITION CONTINUES CD £13.99/2LP £21.99

Pittsburgh native Poogie Bell delivers his 6th full length offering in the form of the 'Exhibition Continues'. Stylistically there's an undeniable air of cool about the project that sees Bell traversing hard bop, soul and fusion throughout. Bell has worked with diverse artists such as Marcus Miller, Stanley Clarke, David Sanborn, Chaka Khan, Erykah Badu and Al Jarreau and this grounding has no doubt

informed his ear. The rolling soulful jazz of 'When I Think Of You' contrasts with the southern deep soul of 'Change Is Gonna Come' while the joyous, free flowing 'Graduation Day' and the afro-edged spiritual 'Electric Glasses' soars with a cosmic groove: check the stunning percussion break! The low slung groove of 'Unforgettable Tale' is a head nodding soulful number while 'Fall' is driven by a cascading piano riff that creates an emphatic vibe. Kamasi Washington comes to mind here. Great album.



MAISHA – THERE IS A PLACE CD £12.99/LP £19.99

London multi-piece combo Maisha continue to add to the rich canon of contemporary British Jazz with a stunning set in the form of 'There Is A Place', a five track, energy filled tour de force that sets them among the most exciting acts of the moment. The rapid-fire epic 'Osiris' has an East African vibe that brings to mind some of the work from the Sons of Kemet and Emanative, 'Eaglehurst/The Palace' is

another brisk, pacey, percussion fuelled dancer, 'Azure's' blues undercurrent winds its way throughout and the contemplative title track 'There Is A Place' has Eastern vibes that bring to mind elements of Alice Coltrane. Another exceptional slice of UK Jazz.



THE ROYAL KRUNK JAZZ ORKESTRA – GET IT HOW YOU LIVE CD £14.99

Russell Gunn's new project is The Royal Krunk Jazz Orkestra. A big band based in its current home of Atlanta Georgia, RKJO is a natural mashup of the traditional Jazz Big Band, with Rhythm & Blues and Southern Hip-Hop sensibility. 'Get It How You Live' is about explaining yourself in an honest way – when you open your mouth it has to be genuine'. The album is big, with all the swagger and power that

you'd expect. It leads off with a speaker introducing the band and setting the stage, and once you're in your chair you have to jump up as the horn section sets the groove with Theo Croker in the front. But that's just the start – concise and delicate moments are interspersed with guest vocalists Dionne Farris and Dashill Smith. Get It How You Live is easy to listen to, and each time it reveals yet another level of craft – truly a reflection of Russell Gunn's intent. Stand-out track's include the epic 'Fair' featuring the wonderful vocals of Dionne Farris is well worth the ticket price, one of the tracks of the year so far; the Funky Jazz 'Sybil's Blues' feat Theo Croker, 'Hopeless' and 'Ballad Of The Sad Young Men' are also highlights on this varied set. Don't miss this one!

BEST JAZZ ALBUMS OF THE YEAR 2018



JOE ARMON-JONES – STARTING TODAY CD £12.99/LP £19.99

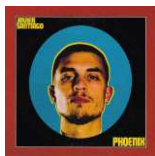
Joe Armon-Jones is the keyboardist from Ezra Collective, one of the leading emerging London bands. The album encapsulates influences from Jazz, the Caribbean, Africa and more to create a very cosmopolitan sound. 'Starting Today' is a powerful up tempo tune ft the vocals of Asheber (who has been influenced by Dwight Trible and Leon Thomas). Nubya Garcia takes a great solo on Tenor sax, Moyes Boyd drumming is outstanding whilst Jones Wurltzer keyboard has very spacey effects. 'Almost Went too far' is a lovely floating mid tempo semi vocal track reminiscent of Thundercat. 'Mollison Dub' is a chilled out Jazz Reggae groove with Afro influenced horns and Jones spacey keys layered above a creative solid dub beat. 'London Face' ft Oscar Jerome on Guitar and vocals is an Afro beat infused jazzy number, and 'Ragify' a haunting jazzy instrumental groove that floats along for 7 1/2 mins before a spoken word rap at the end. Strong album that will further enhance the reputation of home grown Jazz.



JESSICA LAUREN – ALMERIA CD £11.99/2LP £21.99

Keyboard player Jessica Lauren's albums are always interesting, diverse and creative. 'Almeria' is no different. The Samba 'Amalfi' is a lovely feel good summer groove. 'Simba Jake' is a deeper more spiritually orientated and compelling. The slightly quirky 'Chichourlette' has a riff not dissimilar to Reuben Wilson's 'Got To Get Your Own'. The waltz 'Beija Flor' is delightfully delicate and 'Argentina' is a

slow reflective piece.



JAVIER SANTIAGO – PHOENIX CD £14.99

Keyboard player Javier Santiago releases an intriguing set 'Phoenix'. It is full of atmospheric tracks like the mellow 'Alive' featuring Nicholas Payton on trumpet. Cuts like 'Autumn', 'Phoenix' and 'Tomorrow' have that Ropeadope sound (ala Snarky Puppy etc) and show a thoughtful approach to Jazz that will appeal to those who like Jazz for the mind rather than groove driven style, nice album to really

get into.



LORI WILLIAMS – OUT OF THE BOX CD £16.99

Washington, D.C native Lori Williams delivers her fourth album 'Out Of The Box' and she's assembled a stellar cast of guests including Tom Browne, Will Downing, Nathan East, and Maysa. The feel throughout is very sophisticated, grown folks soul with jazz touches in abundance. The smooth 'Let's Walk' showcases Lori's easy, effortless vocals, the funky groove of 'I Like The Way You Talk To Me' is a highlight as is the pacey, Latin influenced title track 'Out Of The Box' that features

Nathan East. The sassy, breezy 'Hold On' features Tom Browne's trumpet, Will Downing and Maysa contribute to the socio-conscious 'Where's That Smile' while the superb, jazz vocal gem 'Our Love Is Real' is a laid back, chilled slab of soul.



KATHY KOSKINS – UNCOVERED SOUL CD £15.99

Sixth album for one-time Was (Not Was) backing singer Kathy Koskins 'Uncovered Soul' was produced by Kamua Kenyatta of Gregory Porter fame and includes luminaries such as Amp Fiddler and Ed Motta among this Detroit native's musical collaborator's. The vibe is very much sophisticated old-school soul with a modern touch reinforced by the fact that all but four tracks are covers of the likes of Bill Withers, Curtis Mayfield and The Neville Brothers. The slick jazzy soul of 'Don't Get Me Started' is reminiscent of Tristan, 'Voodoo' is a slinky blues inflected sway while the lush 'A To B' is a chilled out slowie. The funkier 'Dreamin' Dreamin's Gonna Pull Me Through' and 'Ms Martha' are highlights as is the lounge jazz ballad 'Any Day Now'. On a set dominated by subtle, down tempo numbers the addition of the uptempo 7" single cut 'Could You Be Me' adds bright contrast.



RUBY RUSHTON - TRUDY'S SONGBOOK VOL 2 CD £11.99/£17.99

Peckham's finest, Ruby Rushton release their third album of 2017, 'Trudi's Songbook Volume Two'. This six piece band are really kicking at the moment, great musicianship and conception. TSB volume 2 contains five original pieces that illustrate their unique sound, plus a brilliant version of Herbie Hancock's incredibly beautiful 'Butterfly', taken a slight faster pace than the original whilst still retaining it's charisma. The self penned tracks include 'Tisbury Truckin', 'Song For Christopher' and 'Charlotte Emma Victoria' which all start slow and build tempo and intensity as they progress. This is another strong album from this great band.



CHIP WICKHAM – SHAMAL WIND CD £12.99/LP £14.99

Flautist Chip Wickham's 'LA Sombra' was one of the Jazz album's of last year. 'Shamal Wind' kicks the album in mystical/ Spiritual Jazz side. 'Snake Eyes' is a more groove orientated vein and it is a blistering slice of Jazz dance. Trumpeter Matthew Halsall guests on the slow, atmospheric 'The Mirage'. 'Barrio 71' has a deep running bass line and a head nodding groove with Wickham switching to baritone sax. The finger popping 'Rebel No 23' completes a wonderful album. There is a Middle Eastern/ Arabic influence not dissimilar to some of Yusef Lateef's early Prestige albums. Quality. Must buy.



KAMAAL WILLIAMS – THE RETURN CD £11.99/LP £19.99

Following the break up of the jazz-funk duo Yussef Kamaal, the London keyboardist Kamaal Williams returns with a dynamic album that's deeply rooted in the city's rhythms. 'The Return' could easily be the sequel to 'Black Focus', the music maintains the same style and flow. Even the album artwork and font style are similar, which is no bad thing at all. Stand-out tracks include 'Salaam', the funk filled gem 'High Roller', 'Catch The Loop' more broken beat in style, 'Rhythm Commission' and the beautiful 'Medina'. These younger London based underground Jazz musicians and bands are really on a roll. Don't Sleep!

BEST JAZZ ALBUMS OF THE YEAR 2018



AZHAAR & GLOBAL WAVE – ORIGINAL LOVE CD £14.99

Vocalist/violinist Azhaar Safar (also known for fronting Sirius B) returns with an album inspired by journeys through Latin America with 'Original Love'. The bright and breezy 'Gypsy' is a fresh, uplifting blend of bluesy jazz, the soulful 'Original Love' was produced by Snowboy and has a Hulton/Marvin Gaye feel in the groove while the late 70's Latin/Fusion vibe of 'Down To Earth' allows Azhaar's carefree vocal style to shine. The funkier 'Popoyo' has a great live band feel, the infectious, sassy 'Too Much' has killer organ stabs pulsing behind the south American rhythm and is probably the track of the album while 'Gaia' has a fascinating blend of violin, vocals and bop that works well. Good 9 track set of multi-faceted jazz.



BEADY BELLE – DEDICATION CD £13.99/2LP £29.99

Beady Belle are back with 'Dedication', a welcome return from this highly accomplished Norwegian band who we last heard from a couple of years ago. The euphoric soul of 'Mercy' has a wonderful bubbling tempo that is impossible to not move to, 'Out Of Orbit' is a catchy, subtle beat ballad while 'I Run Your Ragged' shows the group's jazz chops. 'Last Drop Of Blood' is a slick boogie number, the smoky 'Waste My Grace' is another beautiful, slow tempo jazz number, 'Can You Smile' borrows from early 60's soul balladry with Beate Lech's vocals shining through while the title track 'Dedication' rides on a rolling B-line and again fuses soul and jazz perfectly, breaking out emphatically at times before ebbing back. Don't miss the great, easy flowing dancer 'Mooring Line', either with its nod to Steely Dan in the keys. A subtle triumph from this talented combo.



BLUE MOKA FEATURING FABRIZIO BOSSIO – BLUE MOKA CD £15.99

Blue Moka is a Hammond organ led combo. This self-titled album reflects a Blue Note like approach and organist Alberto Gurruti owns more than a nod towards Jimmy Smith. Trumpeter Fabrizio Rosso, veteran of the Italian Jazz scene (Mario Biondi/ Nicola Conte) adds his rich soulful Hubbard like playing to several tracks. Standout is the cover of Wayne Shorter's 'Footprints'. The bright if gritty 'Mesi 30' is a fine waltz-based tune, whilst 'Bacon Y'ou' and 'Lotus Flower' swing. Very nice Italian Jazz set that grows on you.



BUTCHER BROWN CAMDEN SESSION CD £12.99/ LP £17.99

Five piece Jazz combo Butcher Brown hail from Richmond, Virginia and present the direct to disc mini-album, 'Camden Sessions'. The four tracks here are testament to the group's tight, fluid style of playing that tips a wink to their many influences that range from Weather Report to The Meters, Earth Wind & Fire to Return To Forever and more. The funky 'Flat' is a faultless slap of fusion that foregrounds sax and keys with the rhythm section rolling along apace, the more languid, Hancock-style 'Street Pharmacy' has touches of Eddie Henderson in the horns while 'Camden Square' is a more easy going groove with summery washes and some lovely guitar work. The quintet sing up with the infectious funk, early 80s on the interplay between sparkling keys and Marcus Tenney's bright trumpet lines. Really good, energetic set.



WAYNE ESCOFFERY - VORTEX CD £13.99

English born, Jamaican of descent and living in the USA – Wayne Escoffery is joined by a strong trio consisting of David Kikoski (piano), Ugonna Okegwo (bass), Ralph Peterson Jr. (drums) to deliver a superb set of hard post-bop and delicate ballads drawing influence from masters like Coltrane and Rollins among others. The fiery 'Vortex' explodes into life with Escoffery's sax and soon the whole band are vying for positions on this rapid fire hard bop number. 'Judgement' is more rolling and free while the mellower 'February' had a slight Latin percussion running under its drifting tones. 'Baku' has an urgent bassline snaking in between the battle between the keys and the horn while the free, expressionistic 'The Devil's Den' grooves, if you like the vocals of Moses Allmon 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 Both Together' is a highlight, too, with the clean and clear guitar and slick keys of the sadly departed Chuck Loeb gracing this track.



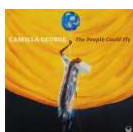
MICHAEL FRANKS – THE MUSIC IN MY HEAD CD £13.99

'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 breeze, smooth and gently percussive West Coast jazzy soul, sung with Franks delicately uttered, easy going, breathy voice. If you like the vocals of Moses Allmon 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 Both Together' is a highlight, too, with the clean and clear guitar and slick keys of the sadly departed Chuck Loeb gracing this track.



TIA FULLER - DIAMOND CUT CD £14.99

Saxophonist Tia Fuller releases her fifth CD 'Diamond Cut'. Produced by drummer Terri Lyne Carrington, it is a strong straight ahead contemporary Jazz album. Guests include bassist Dave Holland and drummer Jack De Johnette. There are a couple of covers such as the lovely version of 'Soul Eyes' and a jazzy re-work of Cole Porter's 'I Love You' but Fuller wrote the bulk of the album. 'Joe N Around' is an exotic Eastern flavoured number, whereas 'The Coming' is an organ driven groove. Strong and always interesting.



CAMILLA GEORGE - THE PEOPLE COULD FLY CD £13.99/ LP £21.99

Saxophonist Camilla George delivers her second album 'The People Could Fly'. It has a distinct African feel to what is a Jazz album based upon African folk tales. It is a concept album that tells the stories of slavery. Omar guests on 'Here But I'm Gone', but there is a straight-ahead Jazz vibe. Her playing is a strong and a definite highlight.



KENNY BARRON QUINTET – CONCENTRIC CIRCLES CD £13.99

Pianist Kenny Barron delivers a very fine contemporary Post Bop set. There are some wonderful Latin tinged grooves such as the swinging 'DPW' and the more intricate 'Baile'. The Hard Bop influence permeates cuts like the up-tempo 'Von Hangman', the flowing 'Concentric Circles' and the heavier 'L's Bop'. There are some lovely delicate moments too. Barron's playing is exquisite and his quintet tight and polished. Special mention should go the trumpet player, Mike Rodriguez whose rich Freddie Hubbard like playing stands out.



BLACK ART JAZZ COLLECTIVE – ARMOR OF PRIDE CD £13.99

The Black Art Jazz Collective are a sextet formed by trumpeter Jeremy Peil and featuring saxophonist Wayne Escoffery and drummer Jonathan Blake. 'Armor Of Pride' is a fiery set with some great up-tempo post-Bop numbers like 'Miller Time', 'The Spin Doctor', 'When Will We Learn' and 'Black Art'. There are also more laid-back gems like 'Pretty' and 'And Then She Was Lovely As Ever' too. Strong set that reflects its Hard Bop and more noticeably Miles/ Wayne Shorter mid 60's influence.



MOSES BOYD DISPLACED DIASPORA CD £11.99 LP £17.99

Award winning UK Drummer Moses has assembled a cast of Jazz and Soul talent on the everfrescent 'Displaced Diaspora', that includes Joe Armon-Jones, Terri Walker, Zara McFarlane and Kevin Haynes' Grupo Elegua. The blend of styles and tempos is varied from the laid back, Yoruba vocal of 'Rush Hour' to the funky, clattering rhythms of 'Frontline' and the pacey, razor sharp 'Rye Lane Shuffle'. The smoky 'City Nocturne' featuring Zara McFarlane is a mature piece of mellow jazz, the hip hop/jazz 'Waiting For The Night Bus' with Terri Walker has the chaotic vibe of the inner city after dark while 'Ancestors' takes it back to Africa with a polyrhythmic feel in the groove and some spacey keys courtesy of Joe Armon-Jones. Fine album.



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 Voo' 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 'Kabi Suite' allows the band to really go into some superb improv passages while remaining cosmic and funky. All mine starts off second half to transform into an irresistible slab of C Jazz Funk that meadow but picks up in the second half to transform into an irresistible slab of C Jazz Funk that sounds like it came out of 1979. Superb, faultless stuff from Bluey and the gang.



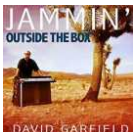
FAR OUT MONSTER DISCO ORCHESTRA – BLACK SUN CD £13.99/2LP £24.99

'Black Sun' is the superb follow up to the far Out Monster Disco Orchestra's 2014 debut and the features fusion trio Azyrmuth, Carioca soul originators Banda Black Rio with orchestral arrangement duties split between Arthur Verocai, and Azyrmuth's late Jose Roberto Bertrami. The infectious, instant groove of 'Step Into My Life' is classic soulful boogie, 'Black Sun' is a Brazilian influenced disco excursion while the warm keys of 'Give It To Me' add some jazz funk to proceedings. The swagger of 'Flying High' and the sweet soul of 'Where Do We Go From Here' are also inspired on a slick, faultless album of throwback boogie drenched, disco inspired soul.



GERARDO FRISINA – MODERN LATIN JAZZ 2 CD £21.99

This double CD contains 25 Jazz dance tunes that cover classic Schema sounding tunes to a more contemporary electronic tinged grooves. Reworks of 'Africa Seeds', 'Super Strut' and 'Tin Tin Deo' work itself well in the Schema way of this. Check too 'Joy Shout', 'Samba Skindin', 'Blue Latin' and 'Voice In The Jungle'.



DAVID GARFIELD – JAMMIN OUTSIDE THE BOX CD £13.99

Follow-up to the impressive 'Jazz Outside The Box', 'Jammin Outside The Box' is probably even stronger. Pianist Garfield gathers some of the great and the good of Soul and Jazz. Smokey Robinson adds his distinctive vocal to 'Only Like You', whilst Minnie Riperton's 'Lovin You' transforms itself half way through from a Soul ballad to a slow Salsa. The jazzy 'Waiting For Your Love' is another highlight as is Bobby Caldwell's 'What You Want Do For Love' featuring a nice vocal from Lamont Dozier. In short this album is pretty damn good from start to finish.



CONNIE HAN – CRIME ZONE CD £13.99

Pianist Connie Han delivers a fine post Bop influenced album that allows her to showcase her not inconsiderable talent on the instrument. There are some strong upbeat Jazz grooves like 'Another Kind Of Right', 'Extended Stay' and the fast flowing 'Crime Zone'. There is also the urgent 'Southern Rebellion'. There is a touch of Herbie Hancock to her playing. Very strong.

BEST JAZZ ALBUMS OF THE YEAR 2018



KEYON HARROLD – THE MUGICIAN CD £13.99/2LP £27.99

Keyon Harrold is another up and coming trumpeter whose are reshaping Jazz for the future. His second album 'The Mugician' features many guest musicians and vocalists, but it is his own conception and playing which is the real highlight. 'Wayfaring Stranger' is a lovely track ft Jermaine Holmes and Georgia Anne Muldwon on vocals and Robert Glasper on piano. 'Ethereal Souls' is an aptly titled beautiful track. 'Bubba rides again' is heavy fusion in a mid 70's Freddie Hubbard vein. Best of all is the social commentary 'Circus Show' ft bluesman Gary Clark Jr. Varied and interesting album.



JOSE JAMES- LEAN ON ME CD £13.99/2LP £27.99

Singer, songwriter and lifelong Bill Withers fan Jose James pays tribute to the 80 year old with this slick, straightforward and superbly soulful 12 track set. Lots of classics revisited here with James and his band showing real reverence to the originals. Jose puts his own twist on classic such as 'Ain't No Sunshine', the laid back beat of 'Grandma's Hands' and 'Lean On Me' while Lalah Hathaway duets on 'Lovely Day'. The funky 'Kissing My Love', the long sung 'Use Me' and the southern twang of 'Who Is He' are also excellent while the bluesy 'Same Love That Made Me Laugh' is another strong moment. Really well pitched tribute that shows a lot of respect but

stands out on its own.



CECILE McLORIN SALVANT – THE WINDOW CD £13.99/2 LP £39.99

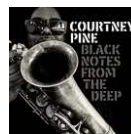
'The Window' is a vehicle for the wonderful Jazz voice of Cecile McLorin, accompanied as she is just keyboards, port studio and partly recorded at the Village Vanguard in New York.. It comprises several standards of which 'Wild Is Love', 'Somewhere' and Stevie Wonder's 'Visions'. But the individual tracks are less pertinent than the beauty and power of Cecile's voice.



ED MOTTA – CRITERION OF THE SENSES CD £13.99/LP £7.99

Brazilian superstar Ed Motta returns with a new album in the form of 'Criterion Of The Senses', two years after his acclaimed 'Perpetual Gateways' release and the late 70s 'Yacht soul' vibe is in full effect here. Motta masters that balance between AOR and innovation with a nod to the likes of Steely Dan and co, especially on the bobbing groover 'Lost Connection To Prague'. The Donny Hathaway feel of 'Sweetest Berry' gives the set a funky touch while the fusion fuelled 'Novice Never Notice' takes its cue from the Beckett/Fagan school of Jazz. 'Your Satisfaction Is Mine' is a firey, boogie heavy dance. 'The Required Dress code' again borrows from that luxurious, turn-of-the-80s LA sound while the jazz guitar and brushed percussion of 'The Tiki's Broken There' creates a live beachside lounge atmosphere. Motta is a master of the cool, elegant, smooth groove with an edge. Superb album.

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COURTNEY PINE – BLACK NOTES FROM THE DEEP CD £11.99/LP £14.99

British legends Courtney Pine and Omar join forces on four tracks for this exemplary set of deep, spiritual, funky and vocal jazz and ballads that demonstrates why both are so highly regarded. 'Rules' borrows a central riff idea from 'Red Clay' and Omar's unmistakable tones work so well with the multi-layered beat on this infectiously hot tapping groove, 'Darker Than Blue' has a sauntering blues vibe while 'In Another Time' utilises a bossa rhythm. Omar also features on the jagged beat interpretation of Hancock's 'Butterfly'. The brooding 'Rivers Of Blood' is a slow and languorous meditation, 'How Many More' has a smoky atmosphere lead by piano and sax while the flourishes of the EW 5000 – an electronic drum instrument – gives 'You Know Who You Are' a soaring cosmic feel. Great album – those Omar tracks in particular will please lovers of vocal jazz with a groove but the rest is impeccable too.

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CHRISTIAN SANDS – FACING DRAGONS CD £13.99

Pianist Christian Sands assembles a fine cast of players to support this well crafted album. 'Facing Dragons' will appeal to those that appreciate contemporary Modern Jazz. It is full of thoughtful pieces all penned by Sands save for a cover of the Beatles' 'Yesterday'. 'Rebel Music' kicks the album off in fluent style, whilst 'Fight For Freedom' has an urgent modal bite to it. There is a Latin vibe to the past percussive 'Sanguelo Soul' whilst 'Frankenstein' is a strong modern composition with Keyon Harold's trumpet vying with Sand's flowing grand piano. The intricate 'Samba De Vela' is a delight, a gem amongst many on this recommended Jazz CD.



KANDACE SPRINGS – INDIGO CD £13.99/2LP £22.99

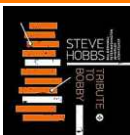
Two years after her much acclaimed 'Soul Eyes' debut album Nashville Singer, Songwriter, pianist Kandace Springs returns with a new 13 track album fuses original compositions with choice cover versions. The organic, percussion driven 'Don't Need The Real Thing' is a stripped back ballad that gently ebbs, 'Breakdown' has a more empathic, modern soul vibe that reminds of the likes of Rag N Bone Man (unsurprisingly 'Breakdown was co-written by Jamie Hartman who produced the hit 'Human') while the moody, dusty drum machine driven 'Piece Of Me' has a Sade vibe. The use of the drum machine on her cover of 'People Make the World Go Round' lends it a mid-70s ghetto lounge feel while the super club vibe of the slowie 'Unsuplicited' is graced by Roy Hargrove's breathy trumpet. Springs yet again delves into a different kind of territory with the drama filled, Winehouse styled 'Love Sucks', her version of Roberta Flack's 'The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face' is a brave move while the restrained soul/R&B of 'Fix Me' again follows a different furrow.

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MOLLY TENTRELLI – MOLLY TENTRELLI CD £14.99

Debut album from Molly Tentrelli, a one-time member of Jarrod Lawson's backing team and this 10 track offering is a great showcase for her singing and songwriting talents. David Sanborn lends his skills to proceedings along with Chris Botti and many more esteemed players on an album of smooth, sophisticated soul-jazz numbers. Molly's voice is confident and delicate at once, the gentle bossa of 'You Don't Know A Thing' is a catchy foot tapper, 'Casual' has a Jarrod Lawson feel in its piano line while the smoky lounge feel of 'Am I Right For You' is a highlight. Other strong moments come in the form of the sass 'What Are We Doing', the fuller production of 'Young Blood' that has hints of Rickie Lee Jones while the closing track is a breezy, summery swayer in the form of 'Why You Gotta Do Me'. Good introduction.



STEVE HOBBS – TRIBUTE TO BOBBY CD £15.99

Vibraphonist Steve Hobbs pays to tribute the legendary master of the vibes Bobby Hutcherson, who passed away in 2016. His quintet plays masterfully, and the compositions cover a multitude of Jazz styles from Latin to Modal to the New Jazz of the sixties. The swinging Post-Bop of 'The Craving Phenomenon' kicks the CD off in fine style, whilst 'Into The Storm' is a complex rhythmic piece over which Hutcherson would have revelled. The modal New Creation' simmers in a Coltrane style, whilst 'El Sueno De Horace Silver' has a Latin Bop vibe. The standard 'Where Or When' is taken at double time, and 'Let's Go To Abaco' is another fine driving 60's style Jazz piece. All thirteen tracks are very strong. Hobbs plays Marimba

on many tunes, an instrument that Hutcherson also favoured. Brilliant.



TIMO LASSY – LASSY MOVES CD £13.99

A new Timo Lassy set is always something to look forward to. 'Moves' has some great groove driven moments such as the fast flowing 'Northern Express', the up-tempo 'Lashes' and 'Q & A'. The upper tempo is sustained with 'E71', whilst 'Moves' has modal influence. The Latin 'Casa De Ferreo' has a slight Spiritual Jazz flavour and Lassy is joined by fellow saxman Eero Koivistoinen, who is also on 'E71'. Vocalist Joyce Elaine Yulille guests on 2 tunes including the slowish 'Harlem's Way'. Timo's playing is superb. Strong album



MARCUS MILLER – LAID BACK CD £13.99

As with most Marcus Miller albums 'Laid Back', his second for Blue Note, is quite diverse and his distinctive bass is well to the fore. Trombone Shorty guests on the funky Fusion of '7-T's' that is somewhat of a throwback. The atmospheric 'Untamed' has a quasi Miles feel courtesy of muted trumpet. 'Someone To Love' and 'Sublimity'. The Jazz Funk feel returns for 'Keep Em Runnin' that has an early 80's Funk feel. The album finishes on a high with 'Preachers Kid' that features saxophonist Kirk Whalum and wordless vocals from Take 6. 'Lovers of Marcus' undoubtedly ability on electric bass will revel in 'Laid Back'.



EDDIE PALMIERI – FULL CIRCLE CD £14.99

Legendary pianist Eddie Palmieri returns with a new set 'Full Circle' that revisits classic Salsa tunes. Tunes like the vibrant 'Vamonos Pa' Monte' and the towering 'Azul' kick start this Salsa party...and then it does not let off. Check out the incredible 'Oyelo Que Te Conviene' or the infectious 'Palo Pa'Rumba'. The relatively gentle (at first) 'Muneca' builds towards a crescendo. Palmieri, the 81-year old master of Salsa piano is sublime from note 1. Essential? Believe.



R+R-NOW – COLLAGICALLY SPEAKING CD £13.99/2LP £29.99

This project could maybe best be described as a jazz/soul supergroup consisting of Robert Glasper on keyboards, Terrace Martin on synthesizer and vocoder, Christian Scott aTunde Adjuik on trumpet, Derrick Hodge on bass, Taylor McFerrin on synth and beatbox, and Justin Tyson on drums. The R+R stands for 'reflect and respond' and the band do that both musically and through the lyrical message. From the fast funk of 'Resting Warrior' with its driving B-line to the cavernous, cosmic jazz of 'The Night In Question' the group twist melody and rhythm around each other in with supreme creativity. The chunky beats and wiry synths on 'Reflect Reprise' and the astral airiness in the groove while 'Awake To You' is a more soulful edged mid tempo. Great album that deserves time to fully absorb.



SONS OF KEMET – YOUR QUEEN IS A REPTILE CD £13.99/2LP £26.99

Band-leader, composer and sax and clarinetist Shabaka Hutchings is joined by London-based bandmates Tom Skinner, Seb Rochford and latest addition Theon Cross to deliver the third album from Sons Of Kemet, 'Your Queen Is A Reptile'. Politically and socially charged lyrics collide with the angular new-jazz-from-beyond across the 8 tracks on offer here. The influences and inspirations are many here with each title referring to a strong afro woman from times near and far. The thumping 'My Queen is Harriet Tubman' mixes the carnival vibes of the Caribbean with New Orleans brass lines, 'My Queen is Angela Davis' again has that Crescent City second line vibe but with a more urgent Afro Caribbean groove running throughout, the Fela-esque afrobeat of 'My Queen is Yaa' cantata' is a mix of the rhythms of 'My Queen Is Albertina Sisulu' and the scattered, chaotic 'My Queen Is Doreen Lawrence' are both engaging while 'My Queen is Anna Julia Cooper' is a restrained, slow burner that grows and builds. Superb album - one to give your undivided attention.



KAIDI TATHAM – IT'S A WORLD BEFORE YOU CD £11.99/2LP £21.99

UK Broken-beat pioneer Kaidi Tatham, maybe best known for his work with Bugz In The Attic, releases latest his much anticipated 13 track solo set and as ever, the man keeps the bar raised. The majority of the album is all Kaidi with this versatile and creative force playing every instrument. The uplifting West London flavoured 'Joyous' is a great way to kick things off with a bouncing beat, sweet keys and boogie B-line, the more laid back, soulful 'Out Here On My Own' with a strong conscious lyrical break provides an antidote to the fiery 'Your Dreams Don't Mean A Thing' and the angular grooves of '2Tone' and 'Outta Audio'. The afro-inspired space funk of 'It's A World Before You' features long-time pal Pego and is perhaps the standout track. The quirky lyrical 'Cupid' shows his hip hop sensibilities while the chilled beats of 'Bien' also offer a mellower side. This varied and well constructed set will appeal to fans of Kaidi, Pego and the West London Broken Beat scene as well as fans of jazzy, funky beat oriented grooves.



VENTURE – LIFE CYCLE CD £14.99

Venture is a Jazz quartet that features pianist vibes player Mark Sherman and ex Headhunters drummer Mick Clark. The album is an intimate and consummate and brings back memories of 80's jazz super group Steps Ahead. Highlights include the jazzy 'Tipping The Scales' and the more groove based 'Lost Funk'. 'Charge Denied' is a fine piece of Modern Jazz and there are several laid-back cuts of note such as 'Gently' and 'Love's Touch'. Strong album.

BEST SOUL REISSUES OF THE YEAR 2018

LOU COURTNEY – I'M IN NEED OF LOVE CD £12.99/LP £19.99

Lou Courtney recorded one of the all time great 70's Soul albums in 1974 with the Jerry Ragavoy co-produced 'I'm in need of love'. The 10 Great songs are expertly arranged by Leon Pendarvis backed with superb instrumentation and topped with wonderful expressive Soulful vocal performances from Lou Courtney. The album

includes the modern soul gems 'What Do You Want Me To Do', 'I Don't Want Nobody else', 'I'm in need of love' and 'The Common broken Heart'. The Philly inspired up tempo cuts 'I Will if You Will' and 'Somebody new is Lovin on you' plus there are some great ballads. The CD version includes two non album bonus cuts 'Beware' and 'Why' which were recorded in the same session. Essential for any 70's Soul fans.

SKULL SNAPS – SKULL SNAPS CD £13.99/LP 22.99

The Skull Snaps originally started life as The Diplomats (one of several groups under that moniker) but when they released their one and only album in 1973 on GSF they had fully re-emerged as the group that would lay down one of the most in demand albums ever. The thumping 'My Hang Up Is You' is rightfully a

northern soul classic, the much sampled break of 'It's A New Day' is a funk staple while the stunning crossover 'Didn't I Do It To You' is a sublime slab of soul with a beat. The menacing chase-funk of 'All of A Sudden' and the pounding 'I'm Your Pimp' (also a classic Northern soul spin) are also highlights while the bouncing funkier 'Trespassing' highlights the superb harmonies and invention in the group. The crashing beat ballad 'I Turn My Back On Love' and the brilliant crossover 'I'm Falling Out Of Love' are also vital. Let's not forget the sublime slowie 'Having You Around' too. Brilliant, essential album. Masterpiece.

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!

PHYLLIS HYMAN – DELIVER THE LOVE: THE ANTHOLOGY 2CD £15.99

33 track double CD from Phyllis Hyman that focuses not only on her Arista and Buddah output between 1976 and 1985 but also contains work that she did as a guest vocalist. Classics such as 'You Know How To Love Me', 'Under Your Spell' and 'Baby I'm Gonna Love You' sit

alongside killers such as 'Tonight You And me', 'Sleep On It' and 'You Sure Look Good To Me'. Norman Connors' pacey jazz of 'Just Imagine' works well with Phyllis' scating, the sumptuous ballad duet with Michael Henderson 'Can't We Fall In Love Again' is a gem while the bubbling, mid tempo 'Living Inside Your Love' is a mid tempo classic. So much to enjoy and discover here from a lady rightfully renowned as one of the best voices soul has ever heard.



LEROY HUTSON - HUTSON 1 CD £13.99/LP £21.99

With a series of innovative, stylish and critically-acclaimed albums that he recorded throughout the seventies, multi-talented singer, keyboardist, producer/songwriter Leroy Hutson has been responsible for creating his own musical style, a style and sound that have made classics of his works. Every track on the album is worthy of note,

but especially 'Lucky Fellow' and 'All Because of You' which rank amongst the best songs that he has written or recorded. Hutson 1 was his third solo album, he went on to record a further four albums for Curtom in the 70's. This new issue includes bonus versions.

MILLIE JACKSON – EXPOSED CD £13.99/LP £19.99

Incredible new collection of Millie Jackson sounds that have been mixed by Steve Levine from the original multi-track tapes with previously buried elements being brought to the fore giving the tracks a fresh feel. The drama filled 'I Cry' is a superb, socio-political ghetto rap that sounds immense, her cover of 'If Loving You Is Wrong...'

is cavernous and vast while the thumping 'Bad Risk' is elevated to new, emphatic heights. The northern soul favourite 'House For Sale' is beefed up and sounds superb and rich while the popping funkier 'Sweet Music, Soft Lights And You' is another strong highlight but to be honest each track is a reward in itself – take a listen! Every track on this set is enriched by Steve's deep knowledge of sympathetic production skills but the music is never taken over by this, rather enhanced and given a new interpretation.

EARTH WIND & FIRE – EARTH WIND & FIRE/THE NEED OF LOVE 2CD £13.99

This double CD sees Earth Wind & Fire's first two albums for Warner Bros from 1970 and 1971 brought together in a nice package. From the Self-titled debut 'C'mon Children' is a huge funk break and dancefloor favourite, the rapid fire 'Bad Tune' shows the hard funk side of EWF as

well as their forays into experimentalism, while the brassy 'Help Somebody' is a killer. The beat ballad 'Love Is Life' is a classy slowie that adds some more hues to the palette. The follow up kicks off with two minutes of avant Jazz before 'Energy' rolls into a tough funkier – Boogie Wonderland is a million miles away from this! The fuzz-funk 'I Can Feel It In My Bones' contrasts with the beautiful ballad 'I Think About Loving You' while 'Everything Is Everything' again shows the genius of Maurice White's ever shifting focus.

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'.



BEST SOUL REISSUES OF THE YEAR 2018



ASHFORD & SIMPSON - LOVE WILL FIX IT - THE WARNER BROS. RECORDS ANTHOLOGY 1973 - 1981 3CD £14.99
This expansive triple CD collection features all of Ashford & Simpson's Warner Bros. hits including 'I'd Know You Anywhere', 'Send It', 'Don't Cost You Nothing', 'Found A Cure', 'Is It Still Good To Ya', 'Tried Tested And Found True', and 'Nobody Knows', as well as an unreleased version of 'The Debt Is Settled' and club favourites like 'Stay Free', 'Bourgie Bourgie' and 'One More Try'. Disc three features 12 Disco mixes from Jimmy Simpson, Tom Moulton, Joe Claussell and previously unreleased John Morales (M&M) and Mike Mauro mixes of 'Love Don't Make It Right' and 'Tried, Tested and Found True'.



ALEX BROWN - IN SEARCH OF LOVE CD £14.99/LP £24.99
This album is so rare that some would say it almost doesn't exist - apparently it never made it past the promo stage and 'In Search Of Love' would prove Alex Brown's only full length release. The single 'I'm Not Responsible' drawn from the LP is massively in demand in cross over circles and rightly so, the pounding dancer 'You Move Me' is a great Northern soul number while the moody 'Please Don't Leave Me' is a highlight. The original tracks on the album were co-written by Monk Higgins who also conducted the music. The delicate ballad 'I'll Still Be There' is a winner while the tough, funky 'Baby You Right' is a great uptempo, minor key gem. The skipping groove of 'I'm In Love' is a joyous foot tapper while 'The China Doll' is a superb, moody beat ballad. Great album and a vital reissue.



ARETHA FRANKLIN - ATLANTIC SINGLES COLLECTION 1967 - 1970 2CD £13.99/LP £29.99
This tribute to Aretha Franklin comprises 34 singles - arranged chronologically - over CDs with the double LP shortened to 25 tracks. With one exception these songs originally appeared on six studio albums (I Never Loved A Man The Way I Love You, Aretha Arrives, Lady Soul, Aretha Now, Soul '69, This Girl's In Love With You, and Spirits In The Dark. Lots of classic here including 'I Never Loved A Man (The Way I Love You)', 'Do Right Woman, Do Right Man', 'Respect', 'Going Down Slow', 'A Natural Woman (You Make Me Feel Like)', 'Baby, Baby, Baby', 'Chain Of Fools', 'Prove It', 'Think', 'I Say A Little Prayer', 'I Can't See Myself Leaving You', 'Call Me', and 'Son Of A Preacher Man'.



IMPRESSIONS - TIMES HAVE CHANGED/CHECK OUT YOUR MIND CD £12.99 TIMES HAVE CHANGED LP £19.99

'Times have changed' from 1972 was the only Impressions album featuring Leroy Hutson as lead singer. It has a social message and includes their version of Marvin so 'Inner city Blues'. Curtis wrote most of the tracks including 'Stop the War', the title track, 'Potent Love' and the dancer 'Love Me'. Curtis leads the group for the last time on 'Check out your mind' from 1970. The title cut and 'Do you wanna win' are hard driving tracks. 'You're really something Sadie' is a lovely mid tempo groover. The overall sound of this set is very similar to Curtis classic debut from the same year. Classic early 70's Soul.



THE METERS - A MESSAGE FROM THE METERS: THE COMPLETE JOSIE, REPRISE & WARNER BROS. SINGLES 1968-1977 CD £28.99/3LP £59.99

40-track double CD collection that pulls in every A and B-side that The Meters released on 7" for Josie, Reprise & Warner Bros - including the rare original mono single mixes of the 1968-1971 releases on Josie - most of which are here on CD for the first time. Classic tracks like 'Sophisticated Cissy', 'Cissy Strut', 'Look-Ka-Py Py', 'Chicken Strut', 'Hand Clapping Song', 'Hey Pocky A-Way' and more feature. Liner notes by Bill Dahl feature quotes from Leo Nocentelli, Aaron Neville, and George Porter on what is possibly the best retrospective to date of this massively influential band.

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OHIO PLAYERS - THE DEFINITIVE COLLECTION...PLUS 3CD £16.99
This huge 3 CD 44 track overview includes the Ohio Players' Capitol, Westbound, Mercury, Arista & Boardwalk output and also includes material from Band members June Morrison, Sugarfoot & Shadow (Billy Beck, Clarence Willis & Diamond). The collection is split up into three time periods: 'The Early Years', 'The Golden Years' & 'The Later & Solo Years' and charts their progress from the pleading beat ballad of 'Here Today and Gone Tomorrow' to the funky 'Pleasure', through to their first big hit 'Funky Worm', 'Waltz's First Trip' is a great chugging funkier, 'Pain' and 'Ecstasy' are classics not to mention the huge Love Rollercoaster, a worldwide smash. The expensive baby I Want To Be Free' is a good sprawling soundscape, the mid-tempo 'Good Luck Charm' and 'Just Me' are good, mellow 70's soul numbers while 'Time Slips Away' again shows their strength as a classic harmony. The compressed disco groove of 'Skinny' is a highlight while the taut boogie of Shadow's 'Born To Hustle' is also a winner. Lots to rediscover here.



SYLVIA STRIPLIN - SYLVIA STRIPLIN CD £12.99/LP £17.99
One-time member of Aquarian Dream and Eighties Ladies, Sylvia Striplin was part of Roy Ayers' Umo Melodic set up and it was on that imprint that this classic album was issued. The title track 'Give Me Your Love' is a huge soulful disco number that bears the hallmarks of the Eighties Ladies sound, the lazy link of the stepper has Roy Ayers' stamp all over it while the sparkling 'Look Towards The Sky' is an irresistible stunner. 'Toy Box' and 'Searchin' both superb, angular boogie number that are soaked in that Roy Ayers magic while the mid tempo 'You Said' is an inventive groover that ebbs between boogie territory and mellow balladry. Essential album.



WHISPERS - WHISPER IN YOUR EAR/ WHISPERS/ IMAGINATION 2CD £13.99
Classic Whispers from the early part of the group's stay with Solar Records. All three date from 1979-1980. Highlights of 'Whisper In Your Ear' include the Philly influenced 'Can't Do Without Love' and the Disco orientated 'Jump'. The classic 'And The Beat Goes On' from 'Whispers' needs no introduction; and 'Out The Box' has a similar vibe. 'Lady' is a lovely ballad and there is the tribute 'A Song For Donna'. 'Imagination' is another fine album and includes the catchy 'It's A Love Thing' and the up-tempo gems 'I Can Make It Better' and the popular 'Up On Soul Train'. Classic Whispers, classic Soul, classic Soul.



BAR-KAYS - AS ONE/NIGHT CRAISING/PROPOSITIONS/ DANGEROUS 2CD £13.99
Double CD offering of four Bar-Kays early 80s albums dating from 1980-1984 this 32 track package will delight fans of uptempo electro boogie, dance funk and street soul alike. Highlights among the many here include the sweet stepper 'Say It Through Love', the pulsating 'As One', the superb EWF style 'Open Up Your Heart', the soaring groove of 'Nightcruising' as well as the gorgeous quick fire of 'Feels Like I'm Falling In Love'. You can trace the progression in the sound album by album but the band still hold onto those soulful sensibilities, especially on tracks like the expansive 'I Can't Believe You're Leaving Me', the southern touches of 'Deliver Us' and the spacey 'make Believe Love'. Good balance of uptempo numbers and slower, soul moments



CROWN HEIGHTS AFFAIR - DREAMING A DREAM/ DO IT YOUR WAY/ DREAM WORLD 2CD £13.99
'Dreaming A Dream' dates from 1975 and apart from the title song, there is the vibrant 'Sexy Lady', the straight-ahead Disco of 'Every Beat Of My Heart', the funkier 'I Am Me', and the variable moods of 'You Smiled'. 1976's 'Do It Your Way' features the Jazz Funk opus 'Far Out' and the compelling Disco Funk of 'Dancin', with its 'Shaft like vibe'. 'Music Is The World' has a B T Express/ Brass Construction feel, whereas 'Do It The French Way' is great Disco Funk a la '76. The upper fast and slightly cheesy 'Sexy Ways' and 'Love Me' complete a fine set. 'Dream World' features two outstanding tracks like the explosive 'Say It Right For The World' 'Things Are Going To Get Better' and 'Dream World' and strong Disco Funk cuts, whilst 'I'm Gonna Love You Forever' has a thumping beat. 3 very strong albums on this great double CD.



LEROY HUTSON - HUTSON II CD £13.99/LP £21.99
Fifth studio album from Leroy Hutson this 1976 set includes many highlights - the superb modern soul 'I Think I'm Falling In Love' has gained a big revival in recent times but the emphatic, uplifting 'Love The Feeling', the bouncing 'Love To Hold You Close' and the funk 'Don't It make You feel Good' are also strong standouts. The tight funkies 'Blackberry Jam' & 'Sofunkstation' are also tight, funky dancers while the 'I Do I Do (Want To Make Love To You)' is a blissed out, mellow soul number. Along with his self-titled set from the previous year this is classic 70s Chicago soul. Essential.



THE MAIN INGREDIENT - BROTHERLY LOVE, THE RCA ANTHOLOGY 2CD £15.99
The Main Ingredient were rightly regarded as one of the top vocal groups of their day and this great archive brings together 41 tracks of this sparkling vocal trio's work for RCA beginning in 1969 and spanning the 70s and 80s. Some real gems here... almost too many to mention. Highlights include the Curtis Mayfield influenced 'Brotherly Love', the pounding crossover 'Can't Stand Your Love', the sumptuous ballads 'I'm Better Off Without You', 'I'm So Proud' and 'I'm Leaving This Time' and the funky edged 'Movin On', 'Black Seeds Keep Growing' and the pounding 'Have You ever Tried It'. The superb 'California My Way', 'Looks Like Rain', 'Shame On The World' the popping 'Instant Love' and the disco tones of 'Think Positive' are also choice picks among many.



MFSB - MFSB THE DEFINITIVE COLLECTION DCD £13.99
MFSB were the orchestra that provided the strings and horns that helped define the Philadelphia sound. They also recorded some great music under their own name. This double CD contains 31 of their most famous tunes plus the full-length version of 'Let's Clean Up The Ghetto' from the Philadelphia All-Stars. From the first incarnation of MFSB, there are the hits 'Sexy' and 'TSOP' plus gems like 'Love Is The Message', 'K-Jee', and 'The Zip'. There are strong covers of 'Family Affair' and 'Freddie's Dream'. On the mellow side check 'Summertime' and 'Sunnin And Funnin'. From later version of MFSB, there is the classic 'Mysteries Of The World' and 'Manhattan Skyline'. Quality comp.



MINNIE RIPERTON - PERFECT ANGEL (DELUXE EDITION) CD £13.99
'Perfect Angel' from 1974 was Minnie Riperton's first release for Epic and was arranged by Stevie Wonder with his band Wonderlove handling the music. Maybe best known for the worldwide hit 'Lovin You', the album is studded with gems from the popping, Jazz tinged funk of 'Reasons' to the spacious soul groove of 'Take A Little Time'. The bustling 'Seeing You This Way' is a sunshine fueled delight, the title track 'Perfect Angel' is a classic while the gentle ballad 'The Edge Of A Dream' is bliss. This deluxe package includes extended cuts, alternate versions (check the acoustic take of 'Seeing You This Way') and the superb soul-jazz of 'Don't Let Anyone Bring You Down' which was included on her 'Adventures In Paradise' album but appears here in totally different and much more freer and groove laden form. Great stuff.



O.T SYKES - FIRST LOVE CD £14.99
Known as 'The singing titanic' O.T Sykes' 'First Love' has grown in demand year on year. The superb mid tempo 'Come Be My Lady' is undoubtedly inspired by 'Love TKO', the modern soul favourite 'Stone Crush On You' is another track soaring in popularity while the slower 'Loneliness Inside Of Me' is a great, spacey mid tempo. As obscure, indie releases go the material here is high quality throughout: the dancers 'You Bring Out The Best In Me' and 'Can't Get Enough Of Your Love' are infectious groovers and strong enough to play out while the slower, deeper boogie vibe of 'Something's Burning' is another killer club track. It's not all about the dancers though: 'My First Love' is yet another strong mid tempo beat ballad. Really good album.



THE WHISPERS - ONE FOR THE MONEY / OPEN UP YOUR LOVE / HEADLIGHTS 2CD £13.99
Three albums from 77-79 the sprightly title track 'One For The One' has that classic Whispers mid 70s sound, 'Put Me In The News' is an uplifting, pacy dancer while the pulsating 'Make It With You' is another good dancer. 'Love Is A Dream' again shines as a quality dancefloor friendly tune, the spacey, expansive 'Open Up Your Love' is a killer slowie while the tough, big production of 'Headlights' showed a harder edge to the sound. 'Lost And Found Out' shows the guys in classic hair band mood. 'Let's Get It On' is a solid slice of mid tempo modern soul while the ghetto funk 'Planets Of Life' has a chaser-theme quality. The litting ballad 'You're Only As Good As You Think You Are' is a mellow highlight while 'Try And Make It Better' switches between gentle swayer and funkier edged groover.

BEST SOUL REISSUES OF THE YEAR 2018



RUBY ANDREWS – BLACK RUBY CD £14.99/LP £24.99

'Black Ruby' from 1972 was Ruby Andrews' second album for Zodiac Records and is a really solid set of dancers and beat ballads with Ruby's powerful vocals shining throughout. The big-city funky soul of 'I Want To Be' Whatever It Takes To Please You' and 'Overdose Of Love' are counterbalanced by the mellow, plaintive 'The Love I Need'. The irresistible funky soul groove of 'You Made A Believer Out Of Me' is a bubbling dancer, 'Just Loving You' is one of those magical tracks that can be played forever and still sound

incredible, the tough funkier 'Didn't I Fool You' is a highlight as is the screaming version of 'Hound Dog' where she sounds like Bettye Davis. Great album, hard to find on original.



BEGINNING OF THE END – DEFINITIVE COLLECTION 2CD £15.99/FUNKY NASSAU LP £22.99/BEGINNING OF THE END 2LP £29.99

Both Beginning Of The End albums on one release - 'Funky Nassau' from 1971 and 'Beginning Of The End' from 1976 – with the CD issue including extra singles. Classic tracks from this Bahamian powerhouse will be familiar to funk fans – 'Funky Nassau' was their biggest moment but Island funded dancefloor gems like 'Come Down Baby', the crashing 'Monkey Tamarind' and 'Jump In The Water' also follow the band's blueprint to project that trademark sound. 'Fishman' is a great, soulful, mid tempo with a blend of influences, 'That's What I Get' again sees the group in that big, crescendo mood while the Latin influenced 'Pretty Girl' is also a highlight.



CALIFORNIA PLAYBOYS – TRYING TO BECOME A MILLIONAIRE CD £14.99/LP £24.99

The California Playboys released this super-rare lone album 'Trying To Become A Millionaire' in 1976. At just 8 tracks it's a brief, compact offering but the quality is strong throughout – the album was written by the group with a couple of tracks contributed by Leadstone boss Walter Stone. The thumping title track has an infectious groove, 'Double Love' has southern touches with a Cali vibe running through while the proto-disco 'She's A Real Sweet Woman' is a sunny, soul drenched dancer. The pacey 'Just say A Four Letter Word' is another tough disco influenced number but with that undeniable private press soul vein running through, the expansive, mellow 'I've Got To Find Myself Another Girl' is a sublime beat ballad that has great vocal interchanges while the funky crossover 'Turned On For Good' is a killer way to wrap up this all too short masterpiece. Essential for rare modern soul fans!

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CHAKACHACH – CHAKACHACH CD £9.99/ 180GM LP £21.99
Belgium based Latin Soul and Afro Cuban group Chakachach first released this self-titled album on the Belgian Blue Elephant label and the mix is a melting pot of styles, some which work better than others. 'Stories' is a snaking, percussive effort with a lighthearted touch, 'Soul Dad' is a laid back effort that blends some Latino horns with an exotica twist while 'Bantu' draws directly from Africa with its almost chanted vocals and polyrhythms. 'Love Love Love' has a collision of soundtrack and lounge about it, 'Oye Me' again goes back to West African and sounds like authentic Hi-life while the adult

themed 'Party' has a decidedly risqué content that must have raised eyebrows at the time!



DIMITRI FROM PARIS PRESENTS LE CHIC REMIX 2CD £13.99

This 20 track ode to the music and productions of disco legends Chic sees revered remixer Dimitri From Paris gaining access to the original master tapes in order to further enhance the quality of the classics on show here. The result is a set of gems that have a new sparkle and glow thanks to some sympathetic handling from the undisputed king of the disco remix. Anthems like Chic's 'Le Freak', 'I Want Your Love' and 'I Feel Your Love Coming On' mix with staple disco killers from

Sister Sledge's 'He's The Greatest Dancer', 'Thinking Of You' and 'Lost In Music' as well as a new take on Norma Jean's 'Saturday' and Sheila B Devotion's 'Your Love Is Good'.



MICHAEL HENDERSON – TAKE ME I'M YOURS: THE BUDDAH YEARS ANTHOLOGY CD £15.99

Extensive 33 track anthology looking at award winning singer, songwriter and producer Michael Henderson's output for Buddah between 1976 and 1983. Henderson worked with many esteemed collaborators including Norman Connors 'You Are My Starship', Jean Carr 'Valentine Love' as well as Phyllis Hyman 'Can't We Fall In Love Again' and straddled everything from the pulsating stomp of the atmospheric 'Riding', to slick mid-tempo numbers like 'Goin' Places', to steppers like 'Come To Me' and 'After the Love' like 'Wide Receiver'. Henderson's pedigree was well established by the time he cuts these tracks – he'd already been a bass player with the Detroit Emeralds, running on a slew of Motown tracks and been a part of Miles Davis' touring band for five years.

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LERORY HUTSON – THE MAN CD £13.99 LP £19.99

Leroy Hutson was already beginning to develop his sophisticated soul sound by the time of his second solo album 'The Man' in 1974 as shown on cuts like 'Can't say Enough About Mum'. However many of the tracks have a more traditional Chicago/Impressions sound like the ballad 'Give This Love A Try', 'Ella Weez' and 'Could This Be Love' are Modern Soul dancers. 'The Ghetto '74' is a good cover of the song he co-wrote with Donny Hathaway.



VAN JONES – TIME HAS MADE ME NEW CD £14.99 LP £24.99

Timely reissue of this impressibly rare 1981 indie soul/boogie album, Virginia native Van Jones had a string of 45s under his belt before he tried his luck with his only full length release 'Time Has Made Me New'. The 'Good Times' vibe of 'Not About That' is the DJ's choice from this album, the pacey disco/funkier 'Say Ow Ow Ow' and the breezy 'She's FFFF' both first surfaced on 45s prior to the album, 'Lets Go This Go' again touches on indie disco while the slow burner title track 'Time Has Made Me New' is one for fans of

ballads. 'Loving And Hugging' is a great stripped back modern dancer with less production but better for it – probably up there with the first track as the standout cut. A brief but intriguing 8 track offering. Limited press...don't miss this one!



ATMOSFEAR – EN TRANCE CD £11.99/LP £21.99

From 1980 this Brit-Funk classic from Atmosfear encapsulated the sound emerging from indie studios in the UK at the time – that unmistakable collision of funk, jazz and boogie that looked to the USA for inspiration but could only have come from these shores. The bristling 'Free Tonight' fuses fusion with an underground dance vibe, the jazzier 'Duende' is pure jazz funk while 'Creator's Dream' is a subtle boogie effort that feels around for different directions to move in. The pacey jazz dance 'Interplay' goes into disco territory while 'Return Of LP' is a superb percussion heavy stop-start funk. The LP version is a straight duplicate of the

original album while the CD is extended to include their classic 'Dancing In Outer Space', the sparkling, soaring 'Motivation', the wonderful vibes heavy 'Extract' and the cavernous, experimental 'Alternative II'.



ANGELA BOFILL – ANGIE/ANGEL OF THE NIGHT CD £14.99

This pairing of Angela Boffill's 1978 and 1979 releases for producer Dave Grusin's Arista GRP project sees two of her best loved albums on one CD. 'Under The Moon And Over The Sky' has the sophisticated charm of Phyllis Hyman, the sweet 'Baby I Need Your Love' is a charming, summery swayer while the punchier 'Rough Times' is a grittier, disco influenced funkier. The mellow jazz of 'The Only Thing I Would Wish For', the light Bossa of 'Share Your Love' and the pulsating cover of 'People Make The World Go Round' are also highlights. The boogie swagger of 'Angel Of The Night' picks up the pace, the delicate, funky 'What I Wouldn't Do For You' shows the more gruff side of Boffill's voice while the expansive, jazz based 'The Feeling's Love' highlights Angie's voice.



JAMES CARR – JUST AS FUSED CD £9.99 LP £15.99

Believe it or not that is actually the first 'Best Of' that Ace have issued on James Carr and this collection commemorates the 50th anniversary on Goldwax of James Carr's recording of 'The Dark End Of The Street'. This 20 track set includes his finest works, including the soul blueprint 'Dark End Of The Street', the impassioned 'Love Attack', the pounding 'Freedom Train', the powerful 'Pouring water On A Drowning Man', the classic 'You've Got My Mind Messed Up' as well as the warm, pleading 'Lucky Soul'. Great selection that will please both James Carr fans and those into southern 60s soul.



THE CHAPARRALS – SHAKE YOUR HEAD CD £14.99 LP £24.99

Atlanta's Chapparrals were known for their high energy performances this indemand 1978 offering was their only known album. The rolling funkier 'Hitin It' sounds more like what was coming out of Chicago a few years earlier, 'Juicy Fruit' is a great, bouncing party number while 'Shake Your Head' is in two parts: Part One is a low slung, laid back percussive jam while Part Two turn up the tempo and becomes a thunderous dance floor bomb. 'Coming To You' is a big, expansive head nodder that turns up the drama and pretty much stays on the groove throughout. Fans of mellow soul stuff will enjoy the slow burn ballad 'Just be You' and the pleading 'Stop Cheating On My Lady'. 'Jam Around The World' throws everything into the mix and is a good finale to a strong, obscure slab of rare funky soul.



GIFT OF DREAMS – THE GIFT CD £14.99/LP £24.99

Debut album from 1983 for California based quartet Gift Of Dreams, 'The Gift' is the rarer, more sought after album that includes the stunning, in demand mid-tempo modern soul 'Feel It' (also issued on an almost impossible 45!) the album is a mix of superb mid tempo soul cuts and uptempo grooves - check the dreamy 'Love Is All We Need', and the soaring 'One In All' for the pick of the soulful numbers while the more uptempo highlights come in the form of the boogie laced 'I Believe In You' and the sparkling 'Funkinicks'. Essential addition to any modern soul collection.



LERORY HUTSON – CLOSER TO THE SOURCE CD £13.99 LP £19.99

Leroy Hutson recorded 'Closer to the Source' in 1978, it has his stylistic sophisticated Chicago Soul sound throughout. 'Where Did Love Go' is a beautifully orchestrated mid tempo cut. 'Closer To The Source' is another Hutson classic mid tempo soul track, whilst the slower 'Heaven Right Here on Earth' and 'In The Mood' are also stand outs. 'Get To This (You'll get to me)' and 'Everybody's a Masterpiece' are more up tempo slabs of late 70's Soul. This album is consistently good throughout and it is the last of his truly great albums.



LERORY 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.



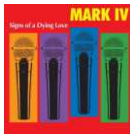
KAY-GEES – KEEP ON BUMPIN' & MASTERPLAN / FIND A FRIEND / KILOWATT 2CD £13.99

First three albums from Kool & The Gang spin-off group Kay-Gees, this set spans the period 1974 – 1978 and tracks the progress in sound from early 70's funk to more disco edged grooves. The highlights include 'You've Got To Keep On Bumpin'', 'Master Plan', 'Get Down', 'Waiting At The Bus Stop', 'Cheek To Cheek' and as a bonus track – 'Hustle Wit Every Muscle', which was the theme tune to the U.S. show 'Party'. 'Be Real' is something of a hidden' gem while 'Find A Friend' and the spacey 'Wondering' shows their more soulful edge. Also included are two extended versions of the track 'Kilowatt' and the 12" mix of 'Cheek To Cheek'. The Kay-Gees were much sampled over the years by acts including Kanye West and Dr. Dre. 36 tracks in total.

BEST SOUL REISSUES OF THE YEAR 2018



LOVE UNLIMITED – THE UNIT, MCA AND 20TH CENTURY RECORDS SINGLES 1972-1975 CD £9.99/2LP £26.99
Featuring all 10 of Love Unlimited's US '7' singles released between 1972-1975, this set is the first compilation to pull together all the group's A- and B-sides that appeared on Unit, MCA, and 20th Century Records. This set will please fans of the group and Barry White and includes the hits 'Walkin' In The Rain With The One I Love', 'Is It Really True Boy – Is It Really Me', 'It May Be Winter Outside (But In My Heart It's Spring)', 'Under The Influence Of Love', and 'People Of Tomorrow Are The Children Of Today'.



MARK IV – SIGNS OF A DYING LOVE CD £12.99/2LP £22.99
Previously unreleased 13 track collection of canned gems that The Mark IV recorded after their self-titled on Mercury under the stewardship of Donald Shazam & Otis Brown Jr. There are some killers on here, from the pacy modern dancers 'I Knew It Wouldn't Last', the pulsating 'How I Feel For You', the bubbling 'I've Been Lucky' and the skipping groove of 'Another Day Another Dollar' to the sublime mid-tempo 'Give Me Just A Little' and 'All My Friends'. 'Signs Of A Dying Love' is also an obvious standout along with the proto-disco effort 'Hang Ups'. Great, vital piece of excavation from Cordial Records.



ONENESS OF JUJUS – AFRICAN RHYTHMS CD £13.99/2LP £26.99
This 1975 release on the fabled Black Fire imprint is rightly hailed as a soul/jazz classic with its heavy percussion, looping chants and forceful drive. The title track 'African Rhythms' is a gem that combines a deep funky bass, Plunkys' winding sax, Eka-Ete Jackie Lewis' urgent vocals and the background chants and whoops that create an electric atmosphere. The first 2 tracks roll into each other with 'Kazi' picking up the pace on a funky jazz instrumental. There are more stripped back, percussive moments like 'Funky Wood' and 'Tarishi' while the mellow 'Incognito' is a beautiful, ponderous slab of spiritual soul/jazz. The hard driving 'Don't Give Up' is a club classic, 'Poo Too' has a superb open break that gateways a deep, funky cosmic landscape while 'Liberation Dues' again rides on a slick, classy B-line. This new issue includes the unreleased banger 'Afrobeat'. Essential.



SHAKE – MUSIC IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN COMMUNICATE CD £14.99/2LP £24.99
1978 album from 7 piece Shake out of Norfolk, VA. This Lenis Guess production was their only offering. The title track embraces the disco sound of the time with a private-press twist. 'Shake' is full on party funk while 'Lost In Space' is cosmic disco. 'I Was In Love With You' is the pick of the ballads. Don't miss 'Goodbye My Love Goodbye'. Rare on original!



SNOOPY DEAN – WIGGLE THAT THING CD £14.99/2LP £24.99
Originally released on Henry Stone's Blue Candle label in 1977, 'Wiggle That Thing' was one-time Third Guitar member and busy guitarist, singer songwriter and studio musician Snoopy Dean's debut album. Fusing the emerging disco sound with a down home bluesy funk groove the title track 'Wiggle That Thing' is a popping mid tempo dancer while 'Shake What You Got' follows a similar vein with simple call-to-action vocals set over a dance groove. The breezy, summery ballad 'Walking On' is a delightful modern gem – rock of the album – with Dean's vocals sounding similar to Charles Johnson who he wrote for while 'Black Bird' is another super slowie with Snoopy's vocals working well with the spacey synths, floating line and sweet backing girls. The punchy 'Let Me Taste Your Love' is the pick of the funk numbers while 'We'll Try Again' is a mid tempo finger clicker that ends this brief but solid album well. Highly recommended.

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STARVUE – UPWARD BOUND CD £14.99/2LP £24.99
Timely reissue of this 1980 offering from Chicago group Starvue, the big track on 'Upward Bound' - 'Body Fusion' - is a rare groove/boogie/2-step gem that remains fresh but don't miss the expansive, spacey ballad 'Let's Hold On To What We Got', the popping, mid tempo funkier 'Let's Put The BS Aside', the tight, slap bass disco groover 'Love Struck' or the soaring proto-disco of 'Upward Bound'. The fierce funk of 'Starvue' sees the band introducing us to them and was probably the opening track at the live concerts they played – a great way to kick off a gig! Also check 'Love Affair' – the kind of hard 70s soul sound that is so popular with DJs and crowds in this day and age.

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FOSTER SYLVERS – FOSTER SYLVERS CD £11.99/2LP £22.99
Debut 1973 release from Foster Sylvers that kicks off with the massive break laden rare groove anthem 'Misdemeanor'. The album mainly comprises covers but the Leon Sylvers' 'Big Things Come in Small Packages' and the percussive 'I'll Get You Girl' are good self-penned moments. In the vogue of the Jackson Five style of kids taking the lead vocals Fosters Sylvers excels on versions of 'I'm Your Puppet' and 'Happy Face'. 'Swooperman' and 'More Love' are decent standouts too. This issue includes a bonus remix of 'Misdemeanor'.



THE WHATNAUTS – THE BEST OF 2CD £19.99/2LP £36.99
The Whatnauts career spanned a 15-year period in which they recorded three albums and numerous singles, ranging from timeless ballads to Temptations-esque politically-charged funk to dancefloor boogie. The music of the Baltimore-based group, featuring falsetto lead of Billy Herndon was much sampled by the likes of De La Soul, A Tribe Called Quest and Kanye West among others. This double cd/vinyl offering picks their best slowies, funk grooves and 12-inch club tracks, including multiple unreleased and rare sides. The classic 'Help Is On The Way', 'I'm So Glad I Found You', 'Soul Walking', 'I Dig Your Act' and 'Give Him Up' are among the many highlights.



LOVE UNLIMITED ORCHESTRA – THE 20TH CENTURY SINGLES 2CD £11.99/3LP £39.99
Featuring all 14 of Love Unlimited Orchestra's US '7' singles released between 1973-1979, as well as the 12' Single Disco versions of a further 7 tracks, this set is the first compilation to pull together all the group's A- and B-sides. This set will please fans of the group and Barry White and includes the hits 'Love's Theme', 'Rhapsody In White', 'Satin Soul', 'My Suite Summer Suite', and 'Theme From "Shatt"'. 32 tracks in all across 2 CDs with the LP issue consisting of 3 pieces of vinyl for a clearer, brighter sound.



MIDNIGHT STAR – NO PARKING ON THE DANCEFLOOR/PLANTETARY INVASION/HEADLINES 2CD £13.99
This 2CD set includes three classic Midnight star albums from a period between 83 to 88. 'No Parking...' included the two Smash R&B Hits 'Freak-A-Zoid' and 'Let 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.



SANTIAGO – 22 SOMERSET DRIVE CD £14.99
Between 1975 and 1978 Santiago recorded an album's worth of material that has largely been unreleased until now. The piece 'Feelings Good' is perhaps his best known among collectors, the bouncy 'Land Of The Leaping No-No' appeared on the same 45 while 'Bionic Funk' 7" was said to be a late 70s bootleg. Mixing up a Funkadelic/Sly Stone vibe the sounds range from the p-funk 'Freakin' to the jazzy experimentalism of 'To And From Gamma 4'. The superb 'Set It Free' is a warm, flowing late 70s indie soul/disco number – probably his best work – while the organic 'Everybody Hears But Nobody Listens' is a sumptuous beat ballad.



MARLENA SHAW – GO AWAY LITTLE BOY: THE COLUMBIA ANTHOLOGY 2CD £15.99
This new 28 track anthology collects Marlena Shaw's output for Columbia between 1977-1980 and includes favourites such as the jazz 'Look At Me, Look At You, (We're Flying)', the soft, bluesy swayer 'Yu-Ma/Go Away Little Boy' with its unforgettable spoken word narrative that shows how much Marlena masters a story, the pulsating disco-soul of 'Sweet Beginnings' as well as her great version of 'Back For More'. Other highlights come in the form of the breezy 'Haven't We Been In Love Before', the mellow 'Dreamin' and the bright 'You Me'. Faultless vocals from one of the best with great grooves and moods in the music.



THE SPINNERS – WHILE THE CITY SLEEPS / THEIR SECOND MOTOWN ALBUM WITH BONUS TRACKS CD £15.99
The Spinner's second album (aptly named 2' Time Around') for Motown dates from 1970 and includes classics such as the Stevie Wonder co-penned 'It's A Shame', the chugging 'Together We Can make Sush Sweet Music', the Detroit soul of 'Bad, Bad Weather (Til You Come Home)' and the finger clicking 'I've Got To Find Myself A Brand New Baby'. GC Cameron fronts the group on most of the 25 cuts here, 13 of which are bonus tracks with 10 of those previously unreleased until they were rescued from the vaults. The thumping (She's Gonna Love Me) At Sundown', 'Satisfaction', 'Gonna Keep On Tryin' Til I Win Your Love' and 'Why Don't You Try It' would grace any dancefloor while the slower 'Sad For Words Were Never Spoken' and the beat ballad 'I Can't Let You Go' are also highlights.



SYLVERS – SYLVERS II CD £11.99/2LP £22.99
Second album from this talented family outfit, the sound is unmistakably Sylvers – tight harmonies and that trademark funky percussion line that runs through many of the tracks. The dark-end 'Stay Away From Me' has hints of Voices Of East Harlem, the popping groove of 'We Can Make It If We Try' and 'Handle It' is created by those tough drums and bubbling b-lines while the cosmic soul of 'Cry Of A Dreamer' is a mellow gem. The wah wah infused 'I Don't Need To Prove Myself' has all the Sylvers ingredients in place – funky percussion, group vocals and a tough back beat – while they excel on 'Be Me' and 'I Remember' superb. Also check the deep, funky, experimental soul of 'Love Me, Love Me Not'. Great album.

ballads too with 'Let It Be'.



LALOMIE WASHBURN – MY MUSIC IS HOT (EXPANDED) CD £11.99
'My Music Is Hot' is from 1977 and this new edition swells the original release by more than half with all the sides from her 70s Parachute 45 releases included too and the quality of this set is high. The swaggering mid tempo 'Give Me Love With The Music' kicks things off well and immediately the power and tone of Lalomie's voice shines through. The swelling groove of 'Double Funkin' makes it a classy dancefloor gem while the low slung, lazy groove of the title track 'My Love Is Hot' has a Milliie Jackson feel. 'Man Power (You Can Do It)' is a driving, funk based stomper. 'Shades Of Blue' has a slight southern lilt with a flowing dance tempo, 'Freaky Strangeness' is another sass head nodder while 'What's Love' completes the original album and again blends Lalomie's assured, almost blasse delivery with a hot funk based vibe. The bonus tracks are versions of album tracks except for the expansive beat ballad 'Two Sides' which ends the set well.



CAROL WILLIAMS – REFLECTIONS OF CAROL WILLIAMS CD £13.99
Former Gemini's member and the first lady of Salsoul, 'Reflections Of Carol Williams' saw her assume creative control over her sound and this album would prove her second and final full length. The bright, uplifting disco number 'Dance The Night Away' was typical of the times with its slick orchestration and clean production aided by Tony Vator with whom Williams had scored success earlier. The bubbling 'Tell The World About Our Love' is driven along by the urgent percussion and sharp strings and Carol's voice excels again, the summery 'Love Constitution' is a killer soulful dance number while the expansive ballad adds some variety to a predominantly up tempo set. Check the soul edged 'I Need You Baby' for perhaps the best uptempo cut on the set.

BEST JAZZ REISSUES OF THE YEAR 2018



JOHN COLTRANE – BOTH DIRECTIONS AT ONCE (DELUXE EDITION) CD £16.99/DBL LP £31.99

Recorded on 6th March 1963 from tapes seemingly lost, 'Both Directions At Once' sees John Coltrane, arguably one of the greatest jazz musicians ever at his most mercurial. A lost album by such a genius is a musical holy grail! It features the saxophonist's great quartet – McCoy Tyner, Elvin ones and Jimmy Garrison. The album finds Coltrane looking both forward and back artistically hence its title. There are modal tracks that would fit seamlessly into any of his early Impulse!

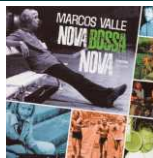
albums, yet there are indications of the more explorative side that were emerge post 'Love Supreme'. The two untitled tracks illustrate his modal side, where as 'Impressions' (what a tune) is somewhat in the middle and 'Nature Boy' to the left-field. 'One Up One Down' is amongst Coltrane's greatest modal performances. Essential for lovers of Coltrane's music. The deluxe edition comprises alternate takes and will be of interest primarily to Coltrane fanatics (such as this writer). The takes do not sound markedly different from those that made the final (?) album. Apart from take 4 of 'Impressions' upon which pianist McCoy Tyner sits out. There are 3 alternate takes of 'Impressions' in total, 2 of 'Untitled original 11386', where take 5 is slightly freer, and one each of 'Vilia' and 'One Up One Down'. **REGULAR EDITION CD £13.99 LP £24.99**



FREDDIE HUBBARD – RED CLAY/ STRAIGHT LIFE/ FIRST LIGHT DBL CD £13.99

'Red Clay' was Freddie Hubbard's first recording for CTI and an absolute gem it is too. The much sampled and covered 'Red Clay' became his signature tune and for the label too. The band – Herbie Hancock, Ron Carter, Lenny White plus Joe Henderson – swing on the jazzy 'Suite Sioux'. They repeat the performance on 'The Intrepid Fox' on which Carter's deep running bass is an outstanding feature. 'Straight Life' is often overlooked partly due to the brilliance of the preceding and following

albums. The title cut continues the intensity of much of 'Red Clay'. The addition of George Benson to the frontline of Hubbard, Henderson and Hancock adds another dimension. Weldon Irvine's 'Mr Clean' extends the vibe albeit in marginally slower time. The Burke/ Van Heusen ballad 'Here's That Rainy Day' provides a respite with Hubbard's magical flugelhorn capturing its delicacy to perfection. Freddie Hubbard's 'First Light' is one of his finest records. The title song is a Hubbard classic and he delivers one of his greatest solos accompanied by lovely contributions from Hubert Laws and George Benson. The remainder of the album finds Freddie in restrained mood. But his rich flugelhorn suits the delicacy of pieces such as 'Lonely Town', 'Yesterday's Dream' and his interpretation of Paul and Linda McCartney's 'Uncle Albert/ Admiral Halsey'.



MARCOS VALLE – NOVA BOSSA NOVA CD £12.99 LP £19.99

It is 20 years since Far Out released Marcos Valle's superb 'Nova Bossa Nova', the Brazilian singer/ pianist/ composer's first album for over a decade at that point. There are some real gems including the infectious dance floor orientated 'Freio Aerodynmico', the stylish Bossa 'Novo Visual' and a Brazilian re-interpretation of

'Rocking You Eternally' – 'A Vantage De Rever Voe', a song he wrote with Leon Ware. If you missed first time around, don't miss out. Outstanding.



RAMSEY LEWIS - DON'T IT FEEL GOOD/SALONGO/TEQUILLA MOCKINGBIRD/LOVE NOTES CD £13.99

This double CD features four of Ramsey Lewis' mid-seventies albums. 'Salongo' is a classic with 'Brazilia' and 'Slick standing out. 'Don't It Feel Good' includes the funky 'Spider Man' and Ramsey's version of 'That's The Way Of The World'. Indeed, there is a strong Earth Wind And

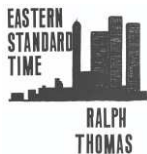
Fire influence on three of the sets. The highlight of 'Love Notes' are the two Stevie Wonder penned and arranged cuts, the ever popular 'Spring High' and the title tune. 'Tequila Mockingbird' is a solid set throughout. Excellent value for money.



LYMAN WOODARD ORGANIZATION - SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL CD £13.99/2LP £32.99

Welcome reissue for this always in demand, seminal jazz fusion album, the sparsity and lo-fi nature of the recording adds another layer of atmosphere to an album drenched in suspense, mystery and surprise. The title track has a portentous soundtrack feel to it – bleak and full

of drama in equal measure – it's also presented on this expanded edition in unreleased form too. The chugging organ and the low key vocal of drummer Leonard King on 'Creative Musicians' help set up what is a jazz dance classic, the fierce latin of 'Cheeba' sees the band throwing everything into the pot while the bustling 'Help Me Get Away' is a bustling guitar and percussion lead dancer. The alternate take of 'Saturday Night Special' is more sparse and stripped back but great to hear. Fine album with lots more to discover within – a must for funk, fusion and soundtrack fans.



RALPH THOMAS - EASTERN STANDARD TIME CD £13.99/LP £24.99

From 1980, BBE once again find a Spiritual Jazz gem. Saxophonist/flautist Ralph Thomas' 'Eastern Standard Time' features seven fine tunes that cover a number of influences from jazz Funk to modal and much

more. 'E.S.T' is a jazzy workout whilst 'Café Phillip' has some Fusion touches. 'Doloreso' has a wicked deep running bassline and 'Big Spliff' is a dreamy mellow piece in contrast to the deep more left-field 'Spellbound'. Truly outstanding album.



JOANNE GRAUER - JOANNE GRAUER INTRODUCING LORRAINE FEATHER CD £15.99/LP £21.99

From 1978, this MPS date features pianist Joanne Grauer and on the 3 best tracks vocalist Lorraine Feather (daughter of Jazz critic Leonard) – the superb Latin flavoured 'See You Later', the swinging; jazzy 'The Voice' and 'Can't Sleep'. 'Gork', the driven

'Frog Child' and the lovely 'Longing are good instrumental showcasing Joanne's keyboard playing. Quality.



MULATU ASTATKE AND HIS ETHIOPIAN QUINTET – AFRO-LATIN SOUL PARTS 1 & 2 CD £13.99 LP £22.99 EACH

The master vibesman, drummer and pianist Mulatu Astatke recorded 'Afro-Latin Soul' whilst living in New York in 1966. Whilst there is an Ethiopian infusion, the music warrants close comparison with US based Latin music of the era. From the urgent funky Soul groove of 'Soul Power' to the Boogaloo of 'Shagu', the album is a percussive delight. The fast-paced Mambo 'I Faram Gami I Faram' sung in Spanish is an all-too short. 'Girl from Addis Ababa' is a killer cool Latin Jazz jam. 'Raina' slows the tempo toward mid. Quality Afro-Latin.

BEST JAZZ REISSUES OF THE YEAR 2018



AFRODISIA – ELEPHANT SUNRISE CD £12.99/LP £22.99
Afrodisia was a short lived group that comprised US service personnel station in Worms, Germany and local musicians. They cut albums with 'Elephant Sunrise' being the only project that saw a release. The rolling bassline of 'T.M.F.F.' gives it a funk/jazz groove while the blustery 'Psychic Summer' harks back to NYC Fusion. The Bill Summers penned 'Suagr Free' sees the group in jazzy disco territory while the superb percussive groove of 'A Fool No Longer' has a sweetening funk feel that rolls along and drives ahead with bags of energy. Highly recommended and almost impossible

on original



MILES AND COLTRANE – THE FINAL TOUR BOOT LEG SERIES VOLUME 6 CD £21.99/LP £21.99
This 4 CD is composed from 5 concerts that the Miles Davis Quintet performed in Europe (2 in Paris, 2 in Stockholm and 1 in Copenhagen as a part of Norman Granz's 'Jazz At The Philharmonic' series of gigs from the spring of 1960. There are the last live recordings with Coltrane in Miles' band that also included Philly Joe Jones, Paul Chambers and Wynton Kelly. Geniuses at work! The LP is a shortened version of

the CD concert.



JOE FARRELL – JOE FARRELL QUARTET/ OUTBACK/ MOON GERMS DBL CD £13.99
Joe Farrell Quartet dates from 1970 and is his debut for CTI. 'Follow Your Heart' is dreamy and features John McLoughlin on guitar, whilst 'Circle In The Square' has a modal Coltrane like theme. The atmospheric flute led 'Molten Glass' is a highlight and 'Motion' is a frenetic journey into the avant-garde. The movie theme title song is given an enticing Spiritual Jazz like workout with Farrell on flute. 'Sound Down' is another fine post-Boj piece. Both 'Bleeding Orchid' and 'November 68' are further strong modal numbers with Farrell's flute and sax playing of the highest order. The quintet on the LP features Chick Corea, Elvin Jones, Airtio, and Buster Williams. 'Moon Germs' is widely regarded as Farrell's best CTI album and his quartet is stellar featuring Herbie Hancock, Stanley Clarke and Jack DeJohnette. It is a class set with 'modern' Jazz tunes such as 'Great Grove' and 'Moon Germs'. 'Times Lies' adds a Latin flavour, whilst Clarke's 'Bass Folk Song' is another intense groove. 'Moon Germs' is worth the collection price by itself.



GRANT GREEN – SLICK CD £14.99/2LP £39.99
Guitarist Grant Green recorded this previously unreleased live album 'Slick' at the evocatively named 'Oil Can Harry's' in Vancouver Canada on 5th September 1975. It consists of three long tracks Charlie Parker's 'Now's The Time' by far the most compact at 9mins. The Brazilian song 'How Insensitive' comes in at 26 mins. By far the funkiest 'Medley' contains elements of Stanley Clarke's 'Vulcan Princess', Ohio Players 'Skin Tight', Womack's 'Woman's Gotta Have it', Stevie's 'Boogie on Reggae Woman' and The O'Jays' 'For The Love Of Money' clocks up just under 32 mins. Green's playing is as you would expect magnificent, the sound reproduction and packaging by Resonance is top drawer. (ALSO ON RSD 3LP £69.99)



MONK HIGGINS - EXTRA SOUL PERCEPTION (TRANSLUCENT BLUE VINYL) CD £15.99/LP £29.99
'Extra Soul Perception' hails from 1968 and it is a masterpiece of late 60's Soul Jazz. Saxophonist Monk Higgins is in fine fettle and sounds not unlike Houston Person/ Stanley Turrentine. The title song, 'The Look Of Slim' and 'A Good Thing' give that Soul groove some wellie. 'Collision In Black' is fast and furious and 'Poker Chips' is another strong Soul Jazz workout. Fine set.



RAMSEY LEWIS – FUNKY SERENITY/ GOLDEN HITS/ SOLAR WIND/ SUN GODDESS CD £13.99
Four early 70s sets from keyboard maestro Ramsey Lewis on 2 CDs. 'Funky Serenity' includes covers of 'If Loving You Is Wrong' and 'Ketcha By Golly Wow' plus some funky stuff like 'What It Is' and 'Kufanya Mapeenzi'. 'Golden Hits' is a compilation of his most popular tunes from his long spell at Argo/Cadet like 'Wade In The Water', 'In Crowd' and 'Hang On Sloopy' from the 60s. Among the highlights on 'Solar Wind' is the isleys 'Summer Breeze'. 'Sun Goddess', probably his best set is produced by Maurice White of Earth Wind And Fire and the album has that kind of feel with the title cut its highlight alongside 'Jungle Strut', 'Hot Dawg!' and Stevie's 'Living For The City'



HUGH MASEKELA – MASEKELA 66-76 3CD £14.99/7LP BOX £99.99
This 47 track triple cd set covers a 10 year period of celebrated South African Hugh Masekela's output and includes the classic 'Grazing In The Grass' as well as a raft of other tracks that show the breadth and scope of his musical vision. From the African Rhythms of 'Patience' and 'Night In Tunisia' to the expansive 'Sala Le Mane' the sound is often experimental, sometimes edgy but always displays Hugh's eclectic ear, absorbing a myriad of influences that refuse to be pinned down. This set was compiled by producer Stewart Levine and includes tracks from eleven albums, with two of the best – Masekela Introducing Hedzolehe Soundz and 'I Am Not Afraid' – re-released in full on this collection.
STANLEY TURRENTINE – SUGAR/ASTROD GILBERTO WITH STANLEY TURRENTINE/ SALT SONG 2CD £13.99
Tenor saxophonist became a mainstay of the CTI label. His debut for CTI 'Sugar' is a gem. The music is largely modal as his own 'Sugar' illustrates and reaches its zenith with an under-stated groovy take on Trane's 'Impressions'. Gilberto With Turrentine' features the sax maestro on selected tracks but includes covers of the likes of 'Pontioe' and 'Vera Cruz'. 'Salt Song' includes a restrained version of Freddie Hubbard's 'Gibraltar' as well as the Milton Nascimento title song that is a soulful interpretation.

Hugh and his friend and



TOHRU AIZAWA QUARTET – TACHIBANA CD £13.99/2LP £29.99
Japanese pianist Tohru Aizawa recorded 'Tachibana' with his quartet in 1975. These 4 Japanese students recorded just once. 'Philosopher's Stone' kicks the set off in intense and rapid style. That intensity is sustained on the sax led 'Sacrament'. The cover of Chick Corea's 'La Fiesta' is a very jazzy take on this Latin Fusion classic. Luis Bonfá's 'Samba De Orfe' is taken at breakneck pace, only Aizawa's own 'Dead Letter' lessens the pace – slightly. Brilliant 5 tracks and breathless. Originals (a single private press LP) go for

+£500.



DEODATO – PRELUDE/DEODATO 2 CD £14.99
Brazilian pianist and arranger Deodato released his first US based album the excellent 'Prelude' in 1973. It featured the pop hit 'Also Sprach Zarathustra (2001)', which became the CTI label's biggest selling single and 'Prelude' sold c 5 mil copies. 'September 13' is a delicious slice of Jazz Funk too. 'Deodato 2' hails from the same year and includes the sublime Jazz Funk tune 'Super Strut'. There are great covers of 'Nights In White Satin' and 'Rhapsody In Blues'. Quality

Fusion.



JOE FARRELL – PENNY ARCADE/ UPON THIS ROCK/ CANNED FUNK DBL CD £13.99
These three CTI albums date from the period 1973-75. 'Penny Arcade' is a progressively funky track, whilst Farrell's take on Stevie's 'Too High' is equally so. Farrell's own three pieces 'Hurricane Jane', the Latin infused 'Cloud Cream' and the mellow 'Geo's Blue' show the different sides to the sax/ flute man's musical persona. 'Upon This Rock' has a rockier feel courtesy of some ferocious playing from guitarist Joe Beck on 'Weathervane' but contains the much-sampled title track as well as the jazz 'I Won't Be Back' recorded in the same sessions as 'Penny Arcade' and the funkier 'Seven Seas'. 1975's 'Canned Funk' has gutsy bluesier feel and the least funky though 'Spoken Silence' grooves nicely.

Be Back' recorded in the same sessions as 'Penny Arcade' and the funkier 'Seven Seas'. 1975's 'Canned Funk' has gutsy bluesier feel and the least funky though 'Spoken Silence' grooves nicely.



GRANT GREEN – FUNK IN FRANCE 2CD £22.99/3LP £69.99
Resonance also released this double CD Or to Triple vinyl epic 'Funk In France' by grant Green. Six of the tracks were recorded at Studio 104 in Paris in 1969, the other four are live at the Antibes Jazz Festival in 1970. Green's version of James Brown's 'I Don't Want Nobody to Give Me Nothing' is the highlight of the Paris session. The Antibes live tracks include two versions of 'Upshot' both nearly 20 mins long, a great version of 'Hurt So Bad' 15 mins and an epic 27 min version of 'Hi-Heel Sneakers'. Great stuff. (ALSO ON RSD 2LP £34.99)



FREDDIE HUBBARD – GLEAM DBL CD £13.99
'Glean' is an outstanding live album that was recorded in Tokyo in 1975 and only came out as a double album in Japan at that time. It features tracks from Hubbard's then recent and forthcoming CTI/ Columbia LPs. 'Put It In The Pocket' has an edgy Headhunters feel though comparisons to Miles 'On The Corner' are not wide of the mark. Featured keyboard player George Cables composed the beautiful 'Ebony Moonbeams'. There is a subdued version of the Stylistics 'Betcha By Golly Wow'. 'Spirits Of Trane' is a forceful modal number that finds the trumpeter in characteristic lung busting form. Hubbard's other composition 'Kuntu' is a 22-minute Spiritual Jazz opus. Pleasing covers of 'Midnight At The Oasis' and Stevie's 'Too High' complete what is a classic live set that finds Hubbard and co in fine form. Awesome.

Oasis' and Stevie's 'Too



MILTON MARSH – MONISM CD £14.99/LP £24.99
Alto saxophonist Milton Marsh recorded 'Monism' for Strata East in 1975. The standouts are the flowing 'Ode To Nzinga' and the bass driven, Pharoah Sanders-ish 'Sabotage 3 Preparations'. 'Monism' veers towards the avant-garde end of Spiritual Jazz as the interesting title track, the engaging 'Metamorphosis' and 'Vonda's Tune' amply demonstrate. The orchestrations – full horns and strings on one track – give a lush backdrop for left of field music.



HERMETO PASCOAL & GRUPO VICE VERSA – VIAJANDO COM O SOM (THE LOST '76 VICE VERSA STUDIO SESSIONS) CD £13.99/LP £22.99
Multi-instrumentalist Hermeto Pascoal was once described by Miles Davis as 'the most impressive musician in the world'. 'Viajando Com O Som' is an unreleased recording from 1976 and is the 200th release on the Far Out label. 'Danca Do Paje' is a 9-minute fusion of musical styles based loosely around Brazilian Fusion. The lengthy 'Casinha Pequena' is the work of genius and its middle segment is funky Spiritual Jazz with a Brazilian

twist.



DAVE VALENTIN – LAND OF THE THIRD EYE CD £14.99
From 1980, 'Land Of Third Eye' is Dave Valentin's third album and among his best. The funky Fusion of 'Sidra's Dream' features Marcus Miller strongly. There is a nice jazzy take on EWF's 'Fantasy'. There is a Latin tinge to joyful tunes like 'Land Of The Third Eye' and fast flowing 'Pana Fuerte'. Top quality Jazz Funk.

BEST COMPILATIONS OF THE YEAR 2018



WANTS LIST 4 CD £13.99 DLP £22.99

10 Years on, the Wants List 4 comp fulfills expectations being possibly the best yet in this great series of 70's Rare Groove, 2-step and Modern Soul desirables. All 21 tracks winners here, many appearing here on CD or comp for the first time. Incl Harold Wheeler Consort 'Black Cream', Almeta Lattimore 'These Memories', Ty Karim 'Lightin' Up', Mary Clark 'You Got your hold on me', Zulema 'Wanna be Where you are', Tommy McGee 'Now that

I've found you', Dee Edwards 'Deal with it (strings version)', Jocelyn Brown 'If I Can't have your love', Natural High 'Trust in me', Impressions 'We go back ways', Pat Lundy 'Let's get Down to Business', Margie Joseph 'Riding High', Maxine Weldon 'I Want Sunday back again' and Debbie Taylor 'I Don't want to leave you'. Classic 70's Soul.



SOUL ON THE REAL SIDE VOL. 8 CD £12.99

This eighth Volume of the Soul On The Real Side series is a special tribute edition to a sadly departed, well respected figure on the UK soul scene, Francis Tee. As ever the selections are strong with an across the board mix of modern and crossover as well as 70s northern. Big dancers like The Carstairs 'It Really Hurts Me Girl', Carol Anderson's 'Sad Girl' and Virgil Henry's 'You Ain't Saying Something New' jostle alongside Eugene Record's superb 'Overdose Of Joy', Sandra Wright's anthemic 'Midnight Affair', the uplifting 'Touching And Caring' from Nina Simone, Vivian Reed's super soulful 'Save Your Love For Me', the crushing 'What Have I Done (To Make You Mad)' by Linda Jones and Big John Hamilton's heart wrenching 'Take This Hurt Off Me' among many other gems. RIP, Mr Tee.



ECCENTRIC SOUL: THE SARU LABEL CD £15.99/DBL £29.99

Numero mark their 20th Eccentric Soul compilation with a look at Cleveland's Saru imprint (with Bobby Massey of The O'Jays at the helm) a label that played host to raft of strong, mainly hard to find releases like The Out Of Sights' huge, lo-fi Northern soul gem 'For The Rest Of My Life', the sprightly 'Now He's Home' from The O'Jays, Bobby Duker's crossover gem 'Just To Be With You' as well as

David Peoples' increasingly popular, funky edged 'Got To Get My Broom Out'. The gruff voiced Michael Bell's tough to find 'Can't Make It Without You' as well as Pandella Kelly's monster two-stepper 'Stand In For Love' (actually recorded for Astroscope) are big highlights, as are The Elements' 'Hey Lady' and The Out of Sights' monster 'My Woman's Love'. Good expose of this highly productive label with a distinct sound.



SOUL TOGETHERNESS 2018 CD £11.99/2LP £19.99

The Soul Togetherness series is something of an institution on the modern soul scene with each annual release highly anticipated and yet again the latest offering pulls together a strong selection of well curated tracks from recent times and beyond. Cornell CC Carter's funky, smooth 'That Feeling' was produced by Soulpersona and bears the man's slick touch, The Aulps's 80's throwback 'Right On Time' sounds every bit the old school classic while UK favourite Kenny

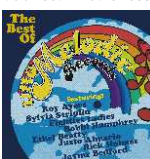
Thomas scores with the infectious 'Your Love' complete with those unmistakable vocals. James Day is joined by Cheryl Pepsii Riley and Joe Cunningham on the deep, boogie fuelled 'He's A Hurricane'. John Reid's exceptional 'All Night Love' again draws from a deep well of early 80s funky modern with those razor sharp horns and a boogie B-line to die for, while The Ritchie Family's 1982 banger 'One And Only' sits next to Reid and shows how the thread weaves through. Ernest Ernie & The Sincerities' soaring crossover 'Do Something' is a killer mid-70s sounding gem that was previously only on a download, DJ Spen and Asia Yarwood's clubber 'Lies' will satisfy fans of soulful house flavours while UK legend Jaki Graham delivers the polished 80s 'About Your Love' from her great 2018 album 'When A Woman Loves'. Lots more gems to discover on this 15 track set. Another essential collection.



ESSENTIAL MOTOWN NORTHERN SOUL 3CD £9.99

This huge 66 track Motown Northern Soul collection has been compiled by Richard Searling and brings together a trove of classics such as Frank Wilson 'Do I Love You (Indeed I Do)', Chris Clark 'Something's Wrong', Marvin Gaye 'This Love Starved Heart Of Mine (It's Killing Me)', The Spinners 'What More Could A Boy Ask For', Diana Ross & The Supremes

'Stormy', The Originals 'Suspicion', Tammi Terrell 'All I Do Is Think About You', Kim Weston 'You Hit Me Where It Hurt Me', Barbara McNair 'It Happens Every Time', The Isley Brothers 'Tell Me It's Just A Rumor Baby', The Velvettes - Lonely, Lonely Girl I Am, Gladys Knight & The Pips 'No One Could Love You More', Stevie Wonder 'Nothing's Too Good For My Baby', Edwin Starr 'I Have Faith In You', Al Kent 'The Way You Been Acting Lately', The Marvelettes 'Danger Heartbreak Dead Ahead', and the Four Tops 'Clap My Wings'. Delve deeper for a great selection of lesser known sounds too.



VARIOUS ARTISTS – BEST OF UNO MELODIC RECORDS CD £12.99/LP £21.99

This 15 track survey of Roy Ayers's Uno Melodic imprint sees some of the best productions from the label gathered together from a brief but productive three year period between 1980 and 1983. Ayers pulled together a wealth of talent from his Polydor label-mates and beyond and between them created a slew of classics that still stand up today. Eighties ladies' sassy 'Turned Onto You', Sylvia Striplin's

stepping mid-tempo 'You Can't Turn Me Away' and Ethel Beatty's proto-disco 'I Know You Care' are stone cold favourites. Striplin's heavy groover 'Give Me Your Love', Eighties Ladies' infectiously funky 'Eighties ladies' and Jaymz Bedford's wiry, angular 'Just Keep My Boogie' are also standouts but every track here is class – check Ayers' own laid back 'Everybody' and the super chilled semi spoken word 'Remember To Remember' from Rick Holmes. Great stuff.



JACK ASHFORD JUST PRODUCTIONS VOLUME 2 CD £13.99

This 24 track collection marks the final chapter in this look at the work of the Detroit producer Jack Ashford, with 10 tracks coming from unissued masters. Sandra Richardson's pounding take on Softouch's 'After You Give Your All' is a good version while the aforementioned act's killer 'Say You Love Me Boy' is included here. Cecil Norman Jr's dreamy ballad 'How

Long Has It Been Since You Had A Love Affair' oozes class, Billy Sha-rae's northern classic 'I'm Gone' sounds as gritty as ever, Eddie Parker's gruff 'I Need A True Love' is a steely slab of fuzzy northern while Ray Gant & The Arabian Knights offer the shady funkier 'Air'. Brenda Cook's delicate 'Along Again' contrasts with Lorraine Chandler's rough edged, pleading 'Don't Leave Me Baby' while Four Sonics Plus One's sundown harmony 'Lost Without You' is deep with a beat and then some. Great set.



LUXURY SOUL 2018 3CD £12.99

The Great value Luxury Soul box set once again combines quality new, current and revival with 35 independent soul tracks across 3 Cds. Tracks by Will Wheaton, Marcus Anderson, Chris Jasper and The Wanda featuring Chaka Khan and Beres Hammond, Sand i Piers featuring Frank McComb among those

previously download only. Also includes Myles Sanko 'Forget me Not', Solutions' 'Thankful', Lina 'Who to love' and Tristan ft Heston 'Rising to the top'.

BEST COMPILATIONS OF THE YEAR 2018



101 NORTHERN SOUL 3CD £39.99

As you've guessed by now, this is a huge 101 track Northern Soul collection spread across 3 CDs. The selections are aimed squarely at the dancefloor with highlights including 'I Got A Feeling' Barbara Randolph, 'Stop Her On The Sight (S.O.S.)' Edwin Starr, 'Do I Love You (Indeed I Do)' Frank Wilson, 'The Night' Frankie Valli, 'No One Could Love You More' Gladys Knight & The Pips, 'I'll Keep Holding On' The Marvelettes, 'He Who Picks A Rose' Jimmy Ruffin, 'Let's Wade In The Water' Marlena Shaw, 'Ordinary Joe' Terry Callier, 'My Love Is Your Love (Forever)' The Isley Brothers, 'What More Could A Boy Ask For' The Spinners, 'I'm One Who Loves You' Barrel Banks, 'Key To My Happiness' The Charades, 'Why Isley Brothers', 'Suspicion' The Originals, 'Dr. Love' Bobby Shriver, 'I'm Still 'Battered Souls' Odyssey, 'All I Do Is Think About You' Tammi Terrell, The Supremes, 'Seven Day Fool' Etta James and 'Nothing But A Heartache' The Flirtations.

When Love Is Gone' The Loving You' Kim Weston, 'Nothing But Heartaches' The Flirtations.



BABY I'VE GOT IT: MORE MOTOWN GIRLS CD £15.99

It's been a long time since Ace's last Motown Girls project was released but this new volume is well worth the wait. The collection opens with 'In My Heart I Know It's Right', the first song Gladys Knight & The Pips recorded for Motown, and closes with the great Kim Weston in torch singer mode. In between you'll find some of the company's biggest stars - the Marvelettes, Brenda Holloway, Martha & the Vandellas alongside lesser-known collector's favourites such as Liz Lands and LaBrenda Ben. Of the 24 tracks here on Baby I've Got It!, 14 are previously unissued in any format and 10 were made available as Motown Unreleased downloads between 2014 and 2017. The selections were recorded between 1961 and 1969, and although predominantly uptempo, which should please most Motown fans represent several variations of the Motown sound.

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BLESS THE PEOPLE EVERYWHERE - GOSPEL FUNK OF PEACOCK & SONORBD CD £15.99/2LP £29.99

This excellent 23 track CD collection highlights the funkier side of a plethora of gospel acts who adopted and embraced the more secular side of black music while spreading the message from the church as well as addressing social and political issues of the time. The highlights here are many but standouts come from the apocalyptic themed 'Generation Gap' from Paul Owens and Capital City Star Singers, The Jubilee Singers' 'Crying Won't Help', The Jackson Southerners' 'Don't Let Him Catch You With Your Work Undone', 'Inez Andrews' superb 'This Is Not The First Time I've Been Last', The Sensational Williams Brothers' 'What's Wrong With The People Today', the hypnotic 'Moan Prayer' from Andrea Vereen, Holy Disciples and OV Wright's massively in demand 'Truff To Make A Hundred' and the best, bustling 'What Kind Of World' from King James Version. Excellent stuff!

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COLIN CURTIS PRESENTS JAZZ DANCE FUSION 2CD £16.99/2LP £21.99

Colin Curtis selects choice tracks from the Muse Records catalogue for his 'Jazz Dance Fusion' collection, tracks that formed the backbone of many of his sets as a pioneering Jazz funk/fusion DJ in the late 70s. Richie Cole's 'New York Afternoon', Dom Salvador's rapid fire 'Image', the Latin Jazz of Emanuel K Rahim & The Kahligs 'Spirit Of Truth', the cooking Hammond of Charles Earland's 'Mullinlay', Mark Murphy's 'Empty Faces', Dave Pike's 'Spirit Sambar', Dom Um Romaro's sparkling 'Pontelo' feature among many others.

20 track double CD with 12 tracks on double vinyl.



DISCO GIANTS VOL 14 2CD £16.99

The latest offering in this much loved series sees another group of classic and semi-known disco gems from the late 70s/1980s brought together with selections from many big acts as well as few maybe lesser known artists. 'It Must Be Love' Alton McClain & Destiny, 'Can't Hide Your Love' from Herbie Hancock, 'And Love Goes On' by Earth, Wind & Fire, 'Just Wanna Get The Feel of It' from Bloodstone, 'Let the Music Play' by the Dazz Band, 'Look Up! (Long Version)' from Petrice Rushen, 'Make Time To Fall in Love' by Midnight Star, 'Star Love' from Three Ounces of Love, 'Funtown' by Koolhaas.

U.S.A. Original 12 Mix' by Rafael Cameron and 'I Searched Around' by Kinsman Dazz are highlights among others on a 19 track double CD offering.



J-JAZZ - DEEP MODERN JAZZ FROM JAPAN 1969-1984 CD £13.99/2LP £29.99

Superb collection that unearth's a world of Jazz from a 25 year period in Japan - a country renowned for absorbing western influence in almost all forms - and reveals how dynamic the scene was over there. Rare, largely unheard and massively sought after by aficionados alike, 'J-Jazz - Deep Modern Jazz From Japan 1969-1984' will also introduce many to an array of deep jazz jewels from a nation bristling with talent. The crashing majesty of Koichi Matsukazu's 'Earth Mother', Kyoshi Sugimoto's brilliant, post-bop killer 'Long Neal', Eiji Nakayama's tight, compressed 'Ayaz's Samba', the hard, frantic pace of Takeyo Uematsu's 'White Fire' and the ebb and flow of Karashima Fumio's 'Little Island' (touches of Go Go Penguin - albeit much earlier - in there) are standouts on a nine track offering of engaging and sparkling Japanese jazz from a golden period.

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JAZZ ON THE CORNER WITH MARTIN FREEMAN AND EDDIE PILLAR 2CD £13.99/2LP £22.99

Great 22 track collection of uber cool, hard bop, Mod Jazz and stops in between, this varied set has been curated by celebrity record hound Martin Freeman and Acid Jazz pioneer Eddie Pillar and is a well balanced journey through their respective record collections. Funky edged, groove based fusion like The Brand New Heavies' 'Shy'm' blends with the Herbie Hancock's 'Look At Me, Look At You (We're Flying)' while More Allusion's 'supremely blasé' 'If You're Going To The City', Kamasi Washington's modern day spiritual 'The Rhythm Changes', Leon Thomas' island swagger of 'Just In Time To See The Sun' and the funk of Banks and Blues's 'Chains' also sit together well.

Eugene McDaniel's soul-jazz 'Cherrystones', Charles Williams' pacy 'Trees And Grass And Things' and Joe Gordon's tough 'Terra Firma Irma' are also highlights among many.



NIGHTTIME LOVERS 27 CD £14.99

This legendary series rolls on with its twenty-seventh offering and yet again, the early to mid 80s are trawled for more of those trademark slick, smooth club soul sounds. The Jones Girls - 'Knockin', Dynasty 'Love In The Fast Lane', Stargaze 'You Can't Have It', Bernard Wright 'Just Chillin' Out', Wreckin' Crew 'All My Love', Starpoint 'Miracle Love', Isabel Roberts 'Rhythm Of Your 'Body Music', Loose Ends 'If My Love' Makes You Hot and Rare Essence 'Back Up Against The Wall' all feature on this latest set.



10 HITS - THE BEST NORTHERN SOUL ALBUM CD £9.99

Budget priced 5 CD set that is superb value for money. 100 popular Northern Soul tracks including the classics like 'The Snake' Al Wilson, 'Love Factory' Eloise Laws, 'I'm Where It's At' The Jades, 'Soul Time' Shirley Ellis, 'Are You Ready For This' The Brothers, 'Too Late' Williams & Watson, 'Change Your Ways' Willie Kendrick, 'Cuz It's You Girl' James Walsh Gypsy Band and 'I Still Love You' Seven Souls among the century of songs here. Party music!



BACKSTREET BRIT FUNK VOLUME 2 2CD £15.99 2LP PT 1/PT 2 £21.99 EACH

Z Records continues its commitment to unearthing the obscure and long forgotten tracks from the last 40 years with the much anticipated follow up to Backstreet Brit Funk. Volume 2 has been eight years in the making and continues to showcase the best of the genre from the late 70s to early 80s, compiled once again by Joey Negro. Brit Funk was essentially the UK's answer to underground disco, with musicians at first imitating and eventually developing the sounds they heard on the US imports that made it across the pond. And like disco, the Brit Funk scene was significant in reducing racial boundaries in the clubs and

raising the profile of black and white musicians who worked together. The album features classic and not so classic titles. Savanna 'I Can't Turn Away', Rick Clarke 'Poison', The Hudsons 'Show Me You Care', Powline 'Watching You', Touchdown 'Ease Your Mind' and Eastbound Expressway 'Never Let Go' but to name some of the gems on this album. Grab your copy now!



BRIAN POWER presents SOUL HOUSE VOLUME 1 2CD £13.99

Kicking off 2018 with a bang, the label release their first album project from label boss Brian Power with 'SoulHouse Vol.1' - a cohesive collection of his own songwriting, mixed with soulful hooks, melodic touches and tight grooves blended with a wealth of musical talent. The album features collaborations with Lifford, Sartorial, Sir, Lloyd Wade, Ronnie Harel, Mike Delgado and regular SoulHouse vocalist Rebecca Scales, along with top drawer remixes from Richard Earnshaw, Eric Kupper, DJ Spen and Gary Hudgins and many more! Stand out include 'Time After Time', 'In Memoria De Roberto 't' Adriana', 'You Mean The World To Me' Marc Avon Evans and 'Amber' t Lifford. For the lovers of Soulful House!



THE CONTEMPO STORY 1973-1977 3CD £22.99

This 3 CD 64-track survey of the Contempo Records label is the first ever retrospective of the logo that was born out of John Abbey's Hanway Street record store of the same name. The label brought many popular, underground and upcoming acts to the public with the spread of styles covering everything from Northern Soul, Disco, Funk, Club Soul and beyond. Major Laine, Bob & Earl, The Incredibles, The Olympics, Tami Lynn, Richard Temple and Bettye Swann, Oscar Toney Jr., Fontella Bass, The Exciters, Doris Duke among others all found a space between the approx. 150 releases the label issued on singles and albums.



ETHEREAL MAGIC 3 CD £12.99

16 track third volume in this popular series of chilled, laid back grooves and dreamy ballads (with the odd curveball thrown in!) Highlights include the atmospheric 'Children Of The Night' from the Jones Girls, Sweetback's sassy 'You Will Rise', the jazzy 'Bluz 4 Eyes' from Buford Powers, the freesoul of Kazu Matsui Project's 'Time Files' and Lesette Wilson's sultry 'One'. Faze-Or's 'Ridin' High' is a mellow soul classic, Collective Peace offer the slow ebb and flow of 'Let The Music Play' while Soul Brother favourite Loli is included with his superb, uptempo jazz 'Flight Of The Blackbird'. A switch off for

compilation to relax and



JOHN MORALES - M&M MIXES VOL 4 4CD £34.99 2LP PART 2 £29.99

The legendary John Morales is back with a huge 4 CD/20 part double vinyl pack of classic soul, disco and dancefloor gems all given a touch of Morales magic. With 32 tracks on the CD the depth of quality is epic - Atlantic Starr's 'Circles', Maze's 'Joy & Pain', Melba Moore's 'You Stepped Into My Life', Tamiko Jones' 'Can't Live Without Your Love', Teddy Pendergast's 'Life Is A Song Worth Singing', Lenny Williams' 'You Got Me Running', Cheryl Lynn's 'Got to Be Real', The Emotions' 'Don't Waste To Love You Love', Frankie Beverly & Maze's 'Before I Let Go', Eddie Kendricks' 'Girl You Need A Change Of Mind' and MFSB's 'Love Is The Message' are among the many gems expertly reworked here.



NICOLA CONTE PRESENTS COSMIC FOREST : THE SPIRITUAL SOUNDS OF MPS : 1965-1965 CD £15.99/2LP £29.99

Superb compilation from Nicola Conte that focuses on output from the legendary MPS imprint. The soaring 'Maiden Voyage' from Third wave is excellent, Nathan Davis' modal gem 1965 'Evolution' is class while the hard bop of Dexter Gordon & Slide Hampton's 'A Day In Vienna' is another quality pick. The standard is high as you can imagine from curator such as Conte and the highlights are many. Check Michael Naura Quartet's 'Sobes heavy rarity' 'Soledad De Murcia', the fiery, rapid paced 'Timbales Calientes' from The MPS Rhythm Combination & Brass and Dave Pike's Set's indie-jazz 'Raga Jeeva Swara' for more standouts. Great collection.



NIGHTTIME LOVERS VOLUME 28 CD £14.99

Kicking off with La Voyage's classy modern soul 'Never Lookin' Back (Again)' and continuing with that talented family's work with Brookfield's 'Don't Cover Up Your Feelings', this is strong collection. Lakeside's 'It's Got To Be Love' and Enchantment's super soulful 'I Believe In You' are great additions and the quality is maintained with Jay Player's evergreen 'Love Is The Answer'. Beau Williams' 'Give Me Up', Shadow's 'Piece A Cake' and Aura's 'Nasty Disposition' are also strong moments on a solid selection.

Love', On One On One 'Body Music', Loose Ends 'If My Love' Makes You Hot and Rare Essence 'Back Up Against The Wall' all feature on this latest set.

BEST COMPILATIONS OF THE YEAR 2018



MASTERPIECE 26 CD £14.99

This ever popular series rolls on with another selection of eighties party grooves and club classics. Highlights include Universe's breezy 'Every Single Night', Michael Henderson boogie soul 'You Wouldn't Have To Work At All', Brenda Hilliard's mid tempo gem 'Give Me A I Of Your Love', Phyllis St James' 'Phonemate', Marcus Miller's 'Suddenly', Surface's angular 'Stop Holdin Back' and Luther Vandross' 'You're The Sweetest One' among the 13 tracks here.



ON THE SOUL SIDE: 26 SOUL GROOVES CD £13.99

Ace revisit some past vinyl only compilations from the 1980s and this 26 track collection is drawn from the Capitol, Liberty, Minit, Imperial and United Artists labels. The first 16 tracks are sequenced in the same order as the original LP with highlights coming from Patrice Holloway 'Love And Desire', Bobby Sheen 'Dr Love', Benny Spellman 'Fortune Teller', Jimmy Holiday/Clydie King 'Ready Willing And Able' while The Magnificent Men's 'Nobody Treats Me The Way You Do' is a class, thumping dancer. June Jackson's 'What's Underneath That Counts' is a classic, 'What You Gonna Do (When Your Love Is Gone)' from Bobby Womack is superb while 'Nothing Left To Do But Cry' by Merry Clayton is a spare, heartfelt ballad. Great stuff.

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VARIOUS ARTISTS - SERGE GAMESBOUR PRESENTS BOSTON GOES DISCO 2CD £15.99/2LP £29.99

Native DJ, producer and bass player Serge Gamesbour began digging in the crates for forgotten gems more than two decades ago; emerging in 2018 with his first BBE compilation, lovingly titled Boston Goes Disco! He began to track down many an obscure artist to license music for the album, Gamesbour often found Boston's legendary Berklee College of Music to be the common denominator for many bands throughout the years. 'A lot of these cats came here real young to study from various parts of the country, met the other band members and wrote music and performed locally before finishing their studies and moving on.' The result is a great comp for disco / boogie fans, with the original cuts and also some edits from the man himself. Standouts include Carrie Mims & Herb Lee 'I'm Gonna Get You Meow', Cojo 'Play It By Ear', Larry Wedgeworth & Clique 'No More Games', Second Wind 'Free For All' and Wildlife 'All In Good' Don't Sleep!

VARIOUS - THE REAL SOUND OF MARK GRUSANE CD £13.99/2LP £29.99

DJ and producer Mark Grusane was responsible for the highly respected 'Real Sound of Chicago' and 'Real Sound of Chicago And Beyond' compilations and he returns with a killer selection drawn from his crates, many of which he has skillfully edited. Africana's perennial demander 'Open Your Hearts', Brief Encounter's 'What About Love' the spacey 'All Should Be In All' from Semaj and the crunchy 'Mucho Macho' jostle with Choker Campbell's street funk chaste style 'Canoca' that draws inspiration from 'Got To Get Your Own', the Island Music Masters' 'Calypso Medley' and Frank Pellico's thumping organic disco number 'Copa Cabana'. A real mixed bag but so well put together.



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TOO SLOW TO DISCO BRASIL CD £13.99/2LP £29.99

Ed Motta - legendary Brazilian singer, musician and friend of Soul Brother - is the latest compiler in the 'Too Slow To Disco' series and he puts the focus firmly on sounds from his homeland. The vibe is very much in that slick, sophisticated late 70s/early 80s Yacht soul/AOR vein typified by the kind of Steely Dan/Doobie Brothers blue eyed FM groove of the era. Junior Mendes' 'Copacabana Sada', Fido Machado's 'Quero Pouco, Quero Muito', Sandra Sa's 'Guarda Minha Voz', Jube Duboc's 'Se Eu Te Pegar De Jeito', Cassiano's 'Rio Best-seller', Brylho's 'Joia Rara' and Gelson



Oliveria & Luis Ewerling's 'Acordes E Sementes' are highlights but to be honest you could put this on at a garden party and your soundtrack would be sorted for seventy minutes!



VERY BEST OF TAPPAN ZEE 2CD £13.99

This double CD presents most of the best tracks from Bob James' Tappan Zee label. From Bob, there is 'Westchester Lady' (previously on CTI), the Rod Temperton penned 'Sign Of The Times', the popular 'Angela (Theme from Taz)' and his last recording with Grover Washington, 'Brighton By The Sea'. Wilbert Longmire's 'Black Is The Color' is a Jazz Funk classic, whilst Steve Khan's take on the O'Jays 'Longtime Darlin Baby' is an absolute gem. There are the EWF covers - Longmire's take on 'Lovers Holiday' and Mark Colby's 'Serpentine Fire' plus contributions from Richard and Mongo Santamaría's Disco version of 'Watermelon Man'. 25 cuts in all.



WE GOT A SWEET THING GOING VOL 3 CD £13.99

Third Volume in this great series, Soul Junction pull another 18 great tracks out of the hat including a handful that have appeared on 45s on the label. The Flairs' 'You Got To Steal' has steadily grown in popularity in recent times and is now seriously in demand, The Jonesettes' 'Once I Had Love' features Karin Jones on vocals while Philly neighbours The Delegates Of Soul's 'Lucky Guy I Am' is slowly growing as more people flip the sides on the 45 that also housed 'I'll Come Running Back'. Bobby Banks' pleading 'Read It And Weep' is classy, The Donations score with the smooth flowing 'I'm Gonna Treat You Good' while The Scott Three's 'Running Wild', the Topicks 'Win All Your Love' and The Coalitions' excellent 'Nothing Left 2 Do' all feature among others. Essential.

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WESTBOUND DISCO CD £13.99/2LP £24.99

Detroit's Westbound Imprint - better known for more mainstream success stories like Denise LaSalle, Funkadelic and The Detroit emeralds - had the foresight to call in the services of DJ, mixer and remixer Tom Moulton to bring their most dancefloor friendly sounds to the floors of the hottest discos of the later years of the 1970s. 'Devil's Gun' C.J. & Co was given the Moulton touch while 'Beat Your Feet' from Erasmus Hall remains as it was initially laid down. Izzy Sanchez reworked the Fantastic



NORTHERN SOUL'S CLASSIEST RARITIES VOL 6 CD £13.99

Ninth instalment of this much lauded series and the quality is as high as ever with Ace continuing to pull gems out of the bag. Tamara Lewis' 'You Won't Say Nothing' sounds as good as ever, Betty Everett's swaggering mid tempo 'I Got To Tell Somebody' is a great inclusion while The Magnificents' 70's jewel 'I Can Fly' was previously only released on a 100 Club 45. Little Nicky Soul's haunting 'I Wanted To Tell You' straddles the divide between Northern and R&B, 'Nomad Woman' from Jack Mitchell with The Fabulous Agents is a superb, sneaking rhythm and soul number while Jackie Day's evergreen 'Naughty Boy' pounds out of the speakers! 'The Winds Kept Laughing' from Betty Turner & The Chevelles is a classic, the pacey 'Wait A Minute (You're Getting Careless With My Heart)' by The Kittens is gaining in popularity while The Vows' 'Lost In A City' is sheer class! Another fine selection.

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PLAY IT LIKE PAPA (15 YEARS OF PAPA RECORDS 2002 - 2017) 3CD £15.99

Established in 2002 in East London by producer/DJ Oli Lazarus, Papa quickly established themselves as one of the best labels for soulful music. Sticking true to their sound, they have gone from strength to strength releasing approximately 100 singles and nearly 50 albums to date. 'Play It Like Papa' is a true celebration of the label's timeless musical output, available as a triple CD, divided into Broken Beat & Nu Jazz, Soulful House and Deep House & House genres. The track list boasts a huge list of cuts from heavyweight international shakers including; Blaze, Faze Action, Eli Escobar, Dennis Ferrer, Al Jazz, Tony Momonteau, The Bells, The Butler, Monique Bingham, The Osunlade, Simon Grey, Richard Earnshaw, Rastless Soul and so many more. For the lovers of Soulful House and Broken Beat - Don't sleep on this one!

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SOUTHERN GROOVE: HOTLANTA, AWARE & CLINTONE FUNK & SOUL CD £13.99

This new series looks at the convergence of southern soul and funk. This first volume focuses on the sound of Atlanta labels Hotlanta and Aware and their sister operation out of Birmingham, Alabama - Clintone. There are a number of previously unreleased numbers here along with some obscure released tracks and a few classics. From the latter category there is Loleatta Holloway's 'Only A Fool And Riddle's I Don't Know What It Is, But It Sure Is Funky' both guaranteed dancefloor monsters. Ripple also give us the unreleased Unknown Instrumental 2 - a delicious slice of funk. From the unreleased pile, David Camon's 'Keep On Doin Your Funky Thing' and Johnny Jacobs Ain't It Funky (Doin' Your Own Thing) provide two of the best unknown funk cuts to be discovered in years. The Family Plann's two tracks show a blend of disco-funk that point the way to the latter part of the decade. Track of the album is probably Maggabar's superb, unreleased 'Down At The Disco'.



THIS IS SOUL CD £9.99 LP £17.99

The iconic 'This is Soul' was originally released in 1968 as a 12 track great compilation of Atlantic and Stax Soul. It features Wilson Pickett, Carla Thomas, Arthur Conley, Percy Sledge, Otis Redding, Eddie Floyd, Sam & Dave, Aretha Franklin big hits. The CD includes a further 17 tracks incl Soul Bros Six 'Some kind of Wonderful', Barbara Lynn 'You're Losing Me', King Curtis' 'Memphis Soul Stew', Mad Lads 'Get out of my life' and Johnnie Taylor 'Ain't that loving you'. Classic 60's Soul!



UNDER THE INFLUENCE VOL 6: COMPILED BY FAZE ACTION 2CD £15.99/2LP £22.99

Brothers Simon and Robin Lee are stalwarts of the Nu Disco era of the late 90s/early 2000s and their productions have always tipped a wink to their deep knowledge of vintage grooves. This 20 track (CD) collection sees them unearth a trove of buried gems ranging from afro, italo, soul funk and disco. For many this will be a voyage of discovery which every track having dancefloor appeal. So many highlights here - check Carole Dionne's bright, soulful disco 'I'm In Love With You', Bebe Gama's thumping funky afro-disco 'Lokogono', the jazzy, cosmic groover 'We All Need One Another' from Australia's Stylus, Delight's swaggering boogie 'Is It Too Late', Oscar Perri's Texas disco banger 'Body Movements', Space's 'Spiralling Prism' and stops between. The headnodding tempo of Collective Peace's soulful 'Let The Music Play' contrasts with Skymark's heavily percussive slant of nu-fusion in the form of 'Finding The Peace' while Carleen Anderson's laid back 'All That Glitters' is another strong moment. Lots of really good tracks to discover on this solid comp.

'Mixed Up' (given the Faze Action edit) and Banzai's wily 'Runaway'. Loads more to enjoy on this solid offering.



FROM THE ARCHIVES VOL 2 : COMPILED BY VOLCOV CD £13.99/LP £29.99

This second offering from Neroli label founder Enrico Crivellaro aka Volcov, is an eclectic mix of tracks that the compiler felt were overlooked. With an already busy marketplace for 70/80s comps, Volcov turned his attention to releases from the past 10-15 years in order to shine a light on a selection of gems that may have slipped the net. There's a strong jazz flavour to the many of the tracks here from the angular broken beat of 'The Blue Room' from Quentin Kane and Simon Sheldon, to Ian O'Brien's mellow 'Spiralling Prism' and stops between. The headnodding tempo of Collective Peace's soulful 'Let The Music Play' contrasts with Skymark's heavily percussive slant of nu-fusion in the form of 'Finding The Peace' while Carleen Anderson's laid back 'All That Glitters' is another strong moment. Lots of really good tracks to discover on this solid comp.



VARIOUS ARTISTS WE OUT HERE CD £13.99/LP £22.99

Brownswood Recordings are back with a new comp, showcasing young London talent. Recorded over 3 days in London August 2017. 'We Out Here' captures a moment where genre markers matter less than raw, focused energy. This album shows there is a bright future for UK Jazz. Some of the stand-outs include Ezra Collective 'Pure Shade', Moses Boyd 'The Balance', Nubya Garcia 'Once' and the wonderful Tri force 'Walls' plus the beautiful 'I Go See' by Joe Armen-Jones. Don't Sleep!



WESTBOUND SUPER BREAKS CD £13.99/LP £26.99

This 19 track focus on Westbound output shines a light on some of the most sampled tracks in the history of the label. Hip Hop heads will recognize elements that went on to form part of new works but as standalone tracks in their own right there are some classy additions here. Spanky Wilson's chugging 'Kissing My Love' is a classic with those pulsating organ stab and parping sax. The Magictones' cover of Funkadelic's 'Good Old Music' is a big, raw, funk juggernaut while Pleasure Webb's cool flute laid 'Music Man Pt 2' is a gem. Label biggie Funkadelic have three tracks listed including the cavernous 'I'll Bet You', The Counts drop the sassy 'Pack Of Lies' while soulful moments come from Unique Blend's laid back ballad 'Does He Treat You Better' and the Denise LaSalle's crossover jewel 'Heartbreaker Of The Year'.

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BEST VINYL ALBUMS OF THE YEAR 2018

SOUL AND FUNK



SAM DEES
THE SHOW MUST GO ON (180GM ANALOGUE)
£29.99



MILLIE JACKSON
CAUGHT UP
£19.99



EARTH WIND & FIRE
ALL N ALL (180GM COLOURED VINYL/NUMBERED LTD ED)
£22.99



JIMMY CASTOR BUNCH
IT'S JUST BEGUN (180GM)
£21.99



CYMANDE
PROMISED HEIGHTS
£21.99



RANDOLPH BAKER
GETTING NEXT TO YOU
£19.99

JAZZ



3 PIECES
VIBES OF TRUTH (180GM ANALOGUE)
£34.99



HAROLD ALEXANDER
SUNSHINE MAN
£31.99



GARY BARTZ
HARLEM BUSH MUSIC - UHURU (180GM ANALOGUE)
£34.99



DONALD BYRD
STREET LADY (GREEN VINYL)
£24.99



GARY CHANDLER
OUTLOOK
£31.99



BILLY COBHAM
CROSSWINDS (180GM)
£21.99



NORMAN CONNORS
LOVE FROM THE SUN (180GM ANALOGUE)
£29.99



STANLEY COWELL
REGENERATION (180GM)
£29.99



GEORGE DUKE
FEEL
£21.99



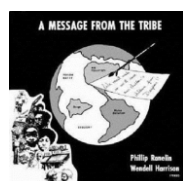
GEORGE DUKE
THE INNER SOURCE
£24.99



SHAMEK FARRAH
FIRST IMPRESSIONS (180GM ANALOGUE)
£29.99



CEASAR FRAZIER
HAIL CEASAR
£31.99



WENDELL HARRISON & PHILLIP RANELIN
A MESSAGE FROM THE TRIBE (180GM ANALOGUE)
£29.99



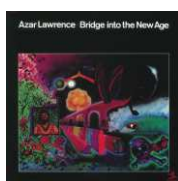
JOE HENDERSON FT ALICE COLTRANE
THE ELEMENTS (180GM)
£29.99



KIMIKO KASAI
BUTTERFLY
£24.99



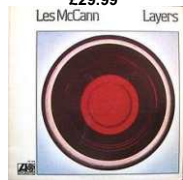
CHARLES KYNARD
AFRODISIAC (180GM ANALOGUE)
£34.99



AZAR LAWRENCE
BRIDGE INTO THE NEW AGE (180GM AUDIOPHILE)
£34.99



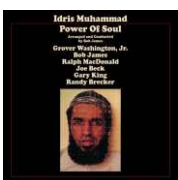
RAMSEY LEWIS
SUN GODDESS (180GM)
£21.99



LES MCCANN
LAYERS
£24.99



HAROLD MCKINNEY
VOICES & RHYTHMS OF THE CREATIVE PROFILE (180GM ANALOGUE)
£29.99



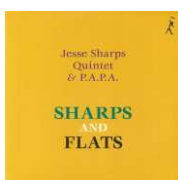
IDRIS MUHAMMAD
POWER OF SOUL (180GM)
£21.99



PUCHO & THE LATIN SOUL BROTHERS
JUNGLE FIRE (180GM AUDIOPHILE)
£34.99



PHAROAH SANDERS
TAUHID (180GM ANALOGUE)
£26.99



JESSE SHARPS QUINTET & P.A.P.A.
SHARPS AND FLATS
£34.99

BEST 45S AND 12S OF THE YEAR 2018



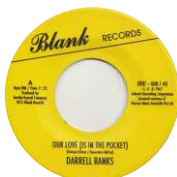
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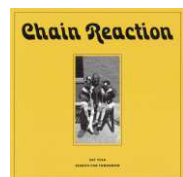
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OUR LOVE (IS IN THE POCKET)/SOMEBODY (SOMEWHERE NEEDS YOU)
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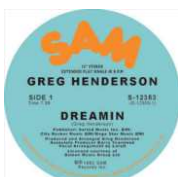
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WOUNDED WOMAN / MIDNIGHT AFFAIR
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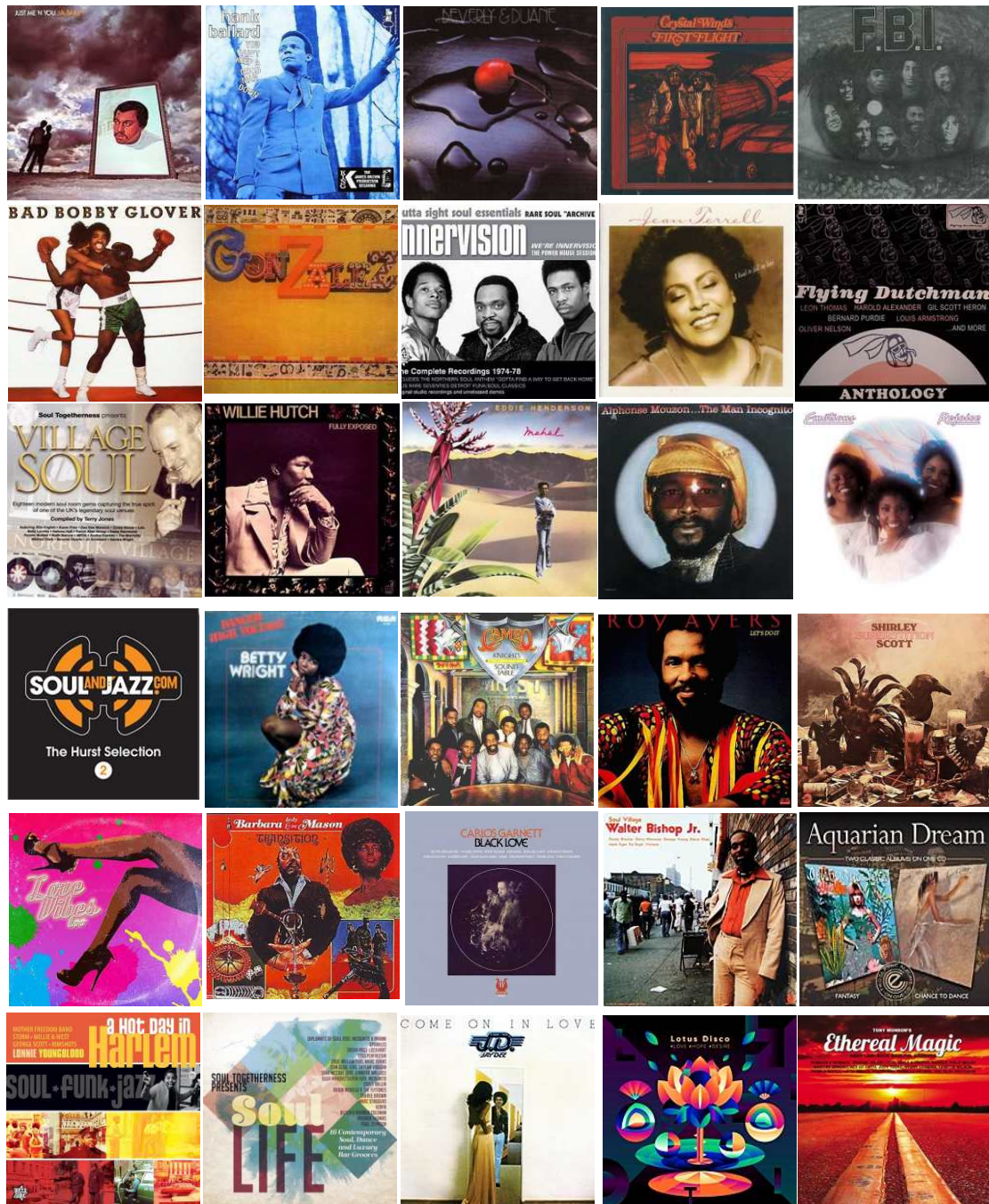


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