



Ask yourself how any artist could generate the level of interest required to justify the recording of a double live album having only released their self-titled debut the previous year and the odds are any

list of names you come up with is sure to be a short one and yet that's exactly what happened with **WEATHER REPORT'S Live In Tokyo**. But then not every aspiring fusion ensemble could boast the heavyweight Miles Davis connections Weather Report had in Joe Zawinul and Wayne Shorter. Recorded by Sony on January 13th '72 at Tokyo's Shibuya Kokaido Hall as one of a series of five sold-out shows the band played in Japan, the album was originally only released on CBS/Sony in Japan and for some time was only available as an expensive import before finally being granted a full international release some time later. Now reissued on deluxe heavyweight vinyl by Speakers Corner (★★★★) and featuring material from the band's aforementioned debut plus a handful of selections from its then unreleased sequel *I Sing the Body Electric* that would follow a matter of months later, *Live In Tokyo* takes the form of a series of extended medleys which while showcasing the quintet's powers as improvisers has the effect of making the album feel like one continuous free-flowing listening experience. Not surprisingly given the personnel involved and the fact that this was the early days of Weather Report the sound and accumulated influence of Miles Davis' early electric bands casts a long shadow over proceedings thanks to the preponderance of electric keyboards, soaring sax lines, a propulsive bottom end provided by bassist Miroslav Vitous and the intricate carpet of rhythms expertly woven by drummer Eric Gravatt and ace Brazilian percussionist Dom Um Romao.