

Influenced by the great John Coltrane, Wayne Shorter's tenor then soprano sax playing slowly became more efficient, spare and delicate as time wore on. Initially a member of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, Shorter shot to fame as part of Miles Davis' collectives, running through Davis' post-bop to electro-fusion periods. In 1970, Shorter joined Joe Zawinul to form the fusion outfit, Weather Report.

Initially released in 1974, this solo LP was produced in his Weather Report period and is a real show-stopping, star-studded album, one of his best releases of that time, packing in the likes of Herbie Hancock, Airto Moreira and the brilliant vocals of Milton Nascimento which are immediately evident on the first track, 'Ponta de Areia'.

German-based Speakers Corner has been one of the most impressive record labels in terms of its care and attention and

maintaining audiophile principles, over the years. I have yet to hear a sonic problem with its releases. It is possibly the most consistent record label in the world today in terms of its high quality output. This release is no different as the master impressively allows a wealth of detail to stream from the grooves.

Shorter's soprano sax on 'Beauty And The Beast' offers a brassy air but there is an emotional and physical resonance there too. You really know that a human being is behind this instrument as it provides a sense of unpredictability. Jay Graydon's bass successfully provides a reliable foundation and rhythmic beat to the track while the almost chaotic effects of Herbie Hancock's piano releases the great man to 'freak out' in that rather stylish manner Hancock has, of course.

A beautiful pressing that is quiet and even, and packed with dynamic abilities.



WAYNE SHORTER

Native Dancer
Speakers Corner

AUDIOPHILE VINYL