

SPEAKERS CORNER

Three new releases (www.speakerscornerrecords.com). The first is Charles Mingus' 'Pithecanthropus Erectus' (1956), his major release as a leader and composer, stretching the entire notion of jazz into tonal arrangements.

LaVern Baker's 'Sings Bessie Smith' (1958) is a splendid release from this R&B singer, surprisingly so. With a jazz backing group this rich style soup allows Baker to sing Smith in her own effective manner.

Finally, Albert King's 'Born Under A Bad Sign' (1967) is his wonderful Stax cut, a host of singles strung into a LP and oh, so influential. Clapton built his early career on the guy.

