

Herbie Mann: At the Village Gate

By **Derek Ansell** - 24 March 2019



This live session for Atlantic, recorded at the most relaxed live jazz club session, a soft-focus flute is heard against a band, and, on the opening “Comin’ Home”

“Comin’ Home” is a long soul-type live recording from the 1960s by the likes of Cannonball Adderley laid back, his lines inventive within a band supported by quiet percussion, the tenorist Hagood Hardy – whatever happened to him – a bluesy bass solo, full of double stops.

“Summertime” continues the set with a relaxed groove again everybody appears to be enjoying it, putting much effort into it.

The longest track is “It Ain’t Necessarily So” of this vinyl release. Almost 20 minutes

of a brisk solo from vibes man Hardy and a passionate bass solo from Abdul Malik. There is also a solo from percussionist Chief Bey before the track slowly slides to a halt with polite applause from the audience. There is seldom any change from casual medium tempo blowing and it could be that on this night, the recording was being recorded and decided to play it safe.

The recording and new mastering is first class and, as with all Speaker’s Corner releases, comes with a bonus CD. The audience seem to be enjoying it all very much so maybe it sounded better live.

Discography

Comin’ Home Baby; Summertime; It Ain’t Necessarily So (38.50)

Herbie Mann (f); Hagood Hardy (vib); Ahmad Abdul Malik, Ben Tucker (b); Ray Mantilla, Chief Bey (dr)

Atlantic 1380 from speakerscornerrecords.com (vinyl)

Opinions or corrections? Send a letter to the editor

REVIEW OVERVIEW

Reviewer rating

SUMMARY

“...it could be that on this night, the musicians were a bit self-conscious about being recorded and decided to play it safe”.