

tune up

THOMAS PATTERSON unearths quality nuggets in his jazz round up



A true legend of jazz, drummer **ELVIN JONES** was John Coltrane's sticksman from 1960 through to '66, lending his chops to classic albums like *A Love Supreme* and *Live At Birdland*, all

the while releasing his own LPs for labels Atlantic, Blue Note, Impulse! and Vanguard. German label Speakers Corner have now reissued his '66 Atlantic album **Midnight Walk** (★★★★) as a handsome 180g vinyl pressing, and the results sound fantastic. Joined by brother Thad Jones (trumpet), Don Moore (bass), Hank Mobley (saxophone), and Dollar Brand aka the future Abdullah Ibrahim (piano), with occasional contributions from electric pianist Steve James and percussionist George Abend, Jones runs through seven original tracks, all penned by band members except for eponymous opener 'Midnight Walk', written by Arif Mardin (whose name is mis-spelt on the sleeve). This is cool post-bop jazz with a sharp mod edge, especially on James' 'Lycra Too?', brother Thad's 'Cross Purpose' and the moody closer 'The Juggler', written by Elvin himself.



Another heavyweight vinyl reissue from Speakers Corner, **THE CHARLES LLOYD QUARTET's** **The Flowering Of The Original Charles Lloyd Quartet** (★★★★) is a live set

that originally came out on Atlantic in 1971, although recorded at a '66 concert at Aulaen Hall in Oslo (the same concert as featured on *Charles Lloyd In Europe*), and featuring a slightly different line-up to the classic quartet, with Keith Jarrett on keys, Cecil McBee on

saxophone, and Jack DeJohnette on drums, alongside veteran saxophonist and flautist Lloyd (hence the "original" designation in the title). The Memphis-born Lloyd had been based out of LA since '53, playing with the likes of Gábor Szabó in Chico Hamilton's group before going solo, and one of the highlights of this set is a 14-minute take of Szabo's 'Gypsy '66', which can be seen as an early flowering of psychedelic jazz - there's a reason why the cover features Lloyd sporting a massive, rainbow-coloured, flower-strewn afro.



The Charles Lloyd Quartet in bloom