ROLAND KIRK

The Inflated Tear

Speakers Corner/Atlantic SC1502 (180g vinyl)

Blind from youth, and before he adopted the name 'Rahsaan', Kirk was known as an iconoclast who played tenor sax, flute, clarinet and other instruments – often more than one at a time. This album from 1967 seems almost sedate to me, having heard Kirk in some rather frantic moods, as it's so relaxed. The amusement comes from determining which obscure woodwind he might be blowing, with the support of a trio behind him to showcase his multi-instrument playing. All originals bar one track from Duke Ellington, the numbers incorporate much of the blues influence from his early years, ranging from soporific to lively. It's a delight in every way. *KK*

Sound Quality: 90%

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