

**ALLEN TOUSSAINT**  
**Life, Love And Faith**

★★★★

SPEAKERS CORNER LP



It's a mystery up there with Lord Lucan's disappearance and the DB Cooper hijack as to why Allen Toussaint didn't become a

household name. Sure, he's celebrated by music fans the world over, but really, with his unique mix of New Orleans R&B, southern soul and countrified funk, he should've been a global superstar; and if one particular album should've propelled him to the stratosphere it's 1972's *Life, Love And Faith* (also chosen as a pivotal album by Neal Francis in this month's Record Picks).

Featuring his in-house band The Meters, *Life, Love And Faith* saw Toussaint stretching his sound into Tavares-style soul on tracks like 'My Baby Is The Real Thing'; yet it's songs such as key cut 'Goin' Down' (which, had it been a 45, could have been a smash), opener 'Victims Of The Darkness' and closer 'Electricity' that hit hardest, bending his trademark funk into incredible new forms. Unreservedly recommended.

**Thomas Patterson**