

ELVIS PRESLEY

Elvis Is Back!

Speaker's Corner/RCA

Of course many Elvis fans – including the likes of John Lennon – considered the Elvis canon a bit of a washout after he left the army. The general consensus was that Elvis died when he entered the armed forces. Almost as if the shearing of his wavy locks destroyed, Samson-like, his musical powers. This was not strictly true, of course. This release, completed in RCA's Hollywood Studios on March 20 and April 2, 1960 and including Scotty Moore, DJ Fontana and Floyd Cramer with The Jordanaires, almost matches the vibrancy of his Sun and early RCA era recordings. Its success is due, not only to a collection of above-average songs, but to Elvis's relaxed and expressive singing. Mixing rock numbers such as 'Mess Of Blues' and 'It Feels So Right' along with blues ditties such as 'Reconsider Baby' and the single 'Girl Of My Best Friend', the album is his most impressive post-Army recording and would remain so until his 1968 Comeback Special recordings.

Speakers Corner is to be congratulated for its excellent reissue of the album. As per usual, the label has decided not to intrude on the packaging, which has been superbly reproduced, by displaying its name, website address or even barcodes in amongst the artwork. That sort of graffiti is restricted to inserts or to stickers on the shrink wrap. In fact, the packaging is intriguing and worth noting as it is a 'top loader'. That is, the record is removed from the top of the sleeve instead of the side. This is partly to facilitate the display of the gamut of black & white photographs that cover the inside of the gatefold.