## Lovely And Alive

180g 33 RPM

**Lena Horne**

Speakers Corner LSP 2587

Lena Horne started out as a chorus girl at the Cotton Club in New York in the early 1930's, but moved on to become a Broadway and film star. She then fell back on her music career when the US red scare and her left leaning politics black-listed her in Hollywood. She reinvented herself as a personality through appearances on TV variety shows. Her recording career was in some ways a small part of Horne's claim to fame, and this is one of her most enduring recordings, made in 1962 for RCA toward the end of a very prolific recording career with that label.

She is backed by trumpeter Jack Sheldon in Marty Paich arrangements and the striking album cover earned the art director a Grammy for best album cover in 1963, while Horne lost out to Ella Fitzgerald for best solo vocal performance. Horne sings a dozen standards, many of them from the American Songbook. Horne's style, if you can call it that, was to invest her heart and soul into everything she did. She brought a sense of bravura to everything she sang. Horne's larger than life presence is heard in every phrase. RCA, Horne's label for much of her career, has done little to preserve Horne's heritage and this release by Speakers Corner helps salvage that situation. **DD**

RECORDING

MUSIC