

AUDIOFILE VINYL



Herbie Hancock

Crossings

180g vinyl

Speakers Corner



PRECEDING HANCOCK'S BREAKOUT album *Head Hunters* by a year, this is a rather more adventurous journey into the imagination of former

Miles Davis alumni Hancock and Bennie Maupin, who wrote two of the three pieces. Side one consists of a suite called *Sleeping Giant*, which comes on strong with a spaced out jungle vibe created by percussion and travels through solid funk grooves and jazzy noodlings on synth, keyboards and horns to a crescendo of

considerable heaviosity. Eddie Henderson's trumpet is very distinctive as is Hancock's Rhodes playing, and when joined by Maupin's bass clarinet things get pretty wild.

Crossings was the first Hancock album to feature Moog synthesiser – courtesy of Patrick Gleeson – it adds a cosmic vibe whenever it fades in. The second side is more adventurous, with both horns stretching out without resorting to traditional soloing. The sound that Speakers Corner has extracted from the tapes is powerful and as dynamic as the original allows. It's got plenty of definition, lovely bottom end and brings home the out-there nature of the production with ease. An essential part of Hancock's canon. **JK**