



LITTLE FEAT 'TIME LOVES A HERO VINYL RECORD' (WARNER BROS RECORDS/SPEAKERS CORNER RECORDS/GERMAN IMPORT)

Although they never scored major hit singles that we still hear a lot nowadays, the legendary American band LITTLE FEAT was quite popular during the 1970s, but after their main guitarist/singer/songwriter LOWELL GEORGE disbanded the band in 1979, and also died shortly thereafter, it was all over for this innovative band. The band was reformed by surviving members in 1987, and they have since then continued to record and perform, but they never reached the magic they had during the 1970s. The only original member of the first line-up from 1969 is BILL PAYNE, so if we talk about their real classic album releases we have to grab back to their 1970s catalogue. Time Loves a Hero was LITTLE FEAT's 6th studio album, produced by the legendary TED TEMPLEMAN (VAN HALEN, THE DOOBIE BROTHERS, AEROSMITH...), originally released back in 1977, which was a few weeks before yours truly was born! SPEAKERS CORNER RECORDS has now 44 years later fully remastered the album by using pure analogue components only and re-released it on vinyl. I have to say that the sound is absolutely amazing if you compare it to the original vinyl record release from 1977, because it sounds like it was recorded yesterday! LITTLE FEAT's music was a mix of all kinds of styles, which was very common to do during the 1970s. Rock and roll, blues, jazz, soul, country, R&B, southern rock and westcoast were

perfectly melted on the LITTLE FEAT albums, and now 45-50 years later we can easily call these album classics. Besides Lowell and Bill, the other members of LITTLE FEAT on this album were Paul Barrère (guitar, vocals), Sam Clayton (congas, percussion, vocals), Kenny Gradney (bass) and Richie Hayward (drums, percussion, vocals) besides a list of guest musicians, such as several trumpet/sax players and DOOBIE BROTHERS members MICHAEL MCDONALD (vocals) and PATRICK SIMMONS (guitar, vocals). The resulting 9 songs featured this amazing organic sound that was basically resembling the 1970s spirit, which was being innovative and putting a live / jam like session on every album release a band did back then. This is also the reason why bands released so many albums during that decade, and they all sounded very natural, because they went into the studio and started recording whatever they had in mind! Anyway, when hearing the album opener Hi Roller, we can hear the pure 1970s mixture of westcoast, jazz fusion, pop/rock, soul and southern rock. This song is a superb classic piece of music that melts all the music styles into 1 organic song that has a healthy mix of guitar, hammond organ, funky bass, groovy drumming, pop melodies/hooks etc, kinda like STEELY DAN meets ZAPPA, and all these acts were on top of their league during the 1970s! The following titletrack Time Loves A Hero is slightly calmer, but Rocket In My Pocket and especially the instrumental progressive rocking Day at the Dog Races rocked again, and they are both showing the diversity of LITTLE FEAT's sound. Also the fact there were 3 singers in the band was very typical for the 1970s, and instrumental they were spot-on from start to finish. Side B opens with Old Folks Boogie, which is a groovy poppy soulful HALL & OATES/BILLY JOEL/STEELY DAN mixture, with also jazzy and bluesy influences like TOTO also did sometimes. The following songs Red Streamliner and New Delhi Freight Train are lovely polished westcoast pop/rock pieces with a funky vibe, reminding of KENNY LOGGINS/MESSINA and very early LE ROUX, while the bluesy Keepin' Up With The Joneses is basically pure STEELY DAN. The album closed with Missin' You, a nice calmer acoustic singer/songwriter piece a la JAMES TAYLOR. It surprises me that this album stood the test of time quite easily and now with this remastered vinyl release, I can highly recommend everyone to check out one of the greatest underrated bands from the 1970s. Time Loves A Hero is a superb album after all these years, and

LITTLE FEAT should definitely get the same recognition as bands like TOTO, ZAPPA, STEELY DAN, DOOBIE BROTHERS and such, because I feel they have never been as big as those acts, which is a shame, but also understandable since they lost one of their founding and most important members during their successful years, so they couldn't continue in their strongest line-up after 1979. Anyway, if you're not familiar with them, get yourself a copy of this wonderful LITTLE FEAT album! The remastered vinyl album is available through: <https://www.jpc.de/?lang=en> (Europe) and <http://www.acousticsounds.com> (USA).

(Points: 8.8 out of 10)