

AUDIOFILE VINYL**Ry Cooder**

Jazz

180g vinyl

HOT PICK**Speakers Corner**

DON'T LET THE title of this album fool you, this is not jazz in any of the usual senses of the word. Made in 1977, it consists of tunes from the early part of the 20th century, and largely obscure ones

at that, unless you're a fan of Bix Beiderbecke, Joseph Spencer or Dave Lee Roth. The opening song, *Big Bad Bill Is Sweet William Now* was covered by Roth, but it's hardly a standard. As with the other 10 tracks, Cooder's version is acoustic and full of joy with some fabulous playing from fine musicians. Among them are

Earl Hines (piano) and David Lindley (mandolin), while the rest play brass, marimba, vibes, organ and drums with the occasional appearance of a 'quartet' (as in the barber's shop variety).

With all-acoustic instruments and analogue recording, this is a beautiful-sounding record thanks to the rich tone of the (sometimes big) band and the quality of playing, the tube bass lines and vibes adding to the depth of scribe. Highlights include *Nobody*, which could be a Randy Newman song but is a much older Bert Williams number with great humour and some lovely harmonies. Cooder called it a "thread of alternative jazz settings to some great music," he just left out the word lovely. **JK**