

BLUE OYSTER CULT 'TYRANNY AND MUTATION VINYL RECORD' (SPEAKERS CORNER RECORDS/GERMAN IMPORT)

Originally released all the way back in 1973, the 2nd album of BLUE OYSTER CULT saw the band in its original line-up of ERIC BLOOM (vocals, keyboards, guitar), ALLEN LANIER (keyboards, guitar), DONALD 'BUCK DHARMA' ROESER (guitar, vocals), JOE BOUCHARD (bass, vocals, keyboards) and ALBERT BOUCHARD (drums, vocals) moving to an own identity where there was room for more than just plain straight-forward rock. 8 songs are on this album, which has been carefully re-issued onto high quality vinyl by the



German label SPEAKERS CORNER RECORDS. Side-A starts with The Red & the Black, an uptempo somewhat groovy/boogie heavy rocker with blues and prog influences, sounding actually dangerously close to VAN HALEN, but of course BLUE OYSTER CULT's song was way earlier than that, so it must have influenced VAN HALEN to write their classics such as Hot For Teacher. The song also has some nice twin-guitarwork here and there, which would become the trademark of THIN LIZZY a few years later. All together, this opening cut would influence a lot of fellow musicians. O.D.'d On Life Itself is at first sounding like a sorta T-REX ish rocker, but there's some prog and ALICE COOPER influences notable as well, so a melting pot, but on the other hand a clear 1970s classic rocktune. Hot Rails To Hell is a full-blown strong uptempo melodic heavy rocker that is close to biker metal, like a cross between very early JUDAS PRIEST and STEPPENWOLF's Born To Be Wild, an interesting tune for sure, with also biting guitarwork. Closing Side-A is 7 Screaming Diz-Busters, which is another uptempo piece that touches the borders with classic proto metal, yet now with some epic progrock influences as well, but especially the flashy shredding guitarwork makes it a true winner.

Side-B opens with Baby Ice Dog, which was co-written by the legendary PATTI SMITH, and this is basically a great uptempo hardrocker that sounds a bit like early RUSH. Following Wings Wetted Down sounds like a classic 1970s melodic theatrical progressive rock piece with even some DAVID BOWIE similarities, however with the heaviness of ALICE COOPER from the same era. Next track Teen Archer does have a clear late 1960s psychedelic/progressive rock approach, with superb vocals and strong melodies during the catchy chorus, while the groovy guitarwork takes you right back to the late 1960s/early 1970s, kinda like classic LED ZEPPELIN meets URIAH HEEP, including the Hammond. This song showed an innovative band that was ready to take on the world by melting all these different rock styles with variety in structures, but always connecting it with memorable melodies and in general showing an own face. Mistress of the Salmon Salt (Quicklime Girl) is a great closing track, a 70s uptempo rocker with a melodic simple chorus, yet again sounding a bit like classic ALICE COOPER.

Concluded, BLUE OYSTER CULT released an instant classic with this 2nd album Tyranny And Mutation, and despite it might sound a bit dated right now, this re-issue makes it sound better than ever. Besides, it is a part of the classic 1970s rockshow you need to own in your collection. The vinyl album is available through: <https://www.jpc.de/?lang=en> (Europe) and <http://www.acousticsounds.com> (USA).

(Points: 8.7 out of 10)