

# *Sound Colour Vibration*

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by Erik Otis

When I first read the **John McLaughlin** biography *Go Ahead John*, author **Paul Stump** gave the 1973 LP *Love Devotion Surrender* a fairly bad review and it was shortly after this lasting impression that I was exposed to the collaborative record between guitar icons **Carlos Santana** and John McLaughlin. Many reviews upon its release were in a more negative slant than positive and it was a shock after initially hearing it, considering how soulful, spiritual and sophisticated the music is and how much I fell in love with the album right away. In a world full of expectations and concrete view points, I can see how this album would fly over some heads during the day, taking on a much different route than pop structures spoke for of the era and even going beyond the fusion voyages of many musicians around them. An enactment of the full spiritual awakening both musicians were finding through guru **Sri Chinmoy**, these teachings brought them together in a unique way and they executed on stunning levels with a cast that included **Larry Young** (org), **Doug Rauch** (b), **Armando Peraza** (cga), **Billy Cobham**, **Don Alias**, **Jan Hammer** and **Mike Shrieve**. The incorporation of **John Coltrane** covers and themes inspired from his works is a staple of the record's identity, produced and released for those who were tapping into energy far outside of the radio waves of the day.

Fast forward over 40 years later and the world has embraced *Love Devotion Surrender* in an entirely new form with key reissues and new perspectives. Taking on a much higher aerial view with the advancement of box sets and tons of historical documentation to now put all the pieces together around the LP, the historical summit of sessions that produced *Love Devotion Surrender* were put together by a combination of musicians from John's Mahavishnu Orchestra and Santana's band of that year. John would soon disband the first manifestation of his band and Santana was reaching new places in his understanding of the guitar and his place on this earth. Both men were in a high state of transition and this album is a cross point to all of that energy. It would be wonderful to see an extensive box set of studio session work and live recordings from this unit, something I am sure will come forth when the owners of the original tapes see fit. Recorded in various sessions between late 1972 and early 1973, *Love Devotion Surrender* was released through powerhouse eclectic label **Columbia Records** on July 20, 1973 and it's fascinating to see it still reach new minds and souls daily.

German label **Speakers Corner** has recognized the value of *Love Devotion Surrender* from Santana and McLaughlin on the level we have and will offer fans of both their works a chance to own a new, unplayed copy on 180-gram vinyl, housed in a reproduction gatefold set up. Copies will ship May 28, 2015 and you can grab a print from our friends at **Acoustic Sounds** by [clicking here](#). Don't miss the definitive disc version with the SACD print **Mobile Fidelity** put together a few years back by [clicking here](#).

<http://www.speakerscornerrecords.com/>