

## Donny Hathaway Everything Is Everything

180g vinyl

Speakers Corner



**IT WAS ONE** of the early demos of the Naim Statement back in the basement of KJ West One through a pair of Focal Grande Utopias that I first got to hear the incredible voice of

Donny Hathaway. It immediately made me sit up and wonder why it had taken quite so long. After all, his name should be up there with the greats, but a tragically short career (he died aged just 33) means that he has been cruelly overshadowed by his peers. *Everything...* is his debut, released in 1970 and containing the hit *The Ghetto*, it's an

all-killer-no-filler release that's powered by Hathaway's incredible voice, deeply groovy keyboards, a tight rhythm section and some fabulous arrangements.

His style is gospel tinged and deeply soulful, digging deep over a band that has an effortless yet precise delivery that perfectly matches the vocal. Highlights include Ray Charles' *I Believe To My Soul*, the funky Sugar Lee with instruments over banter, the incredibly soulful *Thank You Master (For My Soul)* and the aforementioned *The Ghetto*, but it is as they say, all good. The sound is a little thick, the lower the notes the more blurred they get and compressed in typical analogue fashion. In other words it's a gem. **JK**