



Patti Smith

Horses

Arista/Speakers Corner 

Patti Smith's debut *Horses* was the album that brought together poetry and garage rock for the first time. By combining uncompromised lyrics with a new musical angle on rock this album proved a major influence on music in the latter half of the seventies. Without artists like Smith it is doubtful whether the likes of Blondie or The Pretenders would ever have turned out the way they did. Patti Smith pioneered the junky look, which was plain shocking at the time, and had a voice that went totally against the accepted norms for female vocals. Smith was the Angela Dworkin of rock, substituting raw intelligence for traditional sex appeal and defying all the rules of commercial success. At the time she was compared with Rimbaud and Dylan and her band stood alongside the likes of Television and the Velvets with a proto punk sound that is played well but is clearly moving into the unexplored territory that became the so called 'new wave'. Alongside Richard Sohl (piano), Lenny Kaye (guitar), Ivan Kral (guitar, bass) and Jay Dee Daugherty (drums) there are tracks that feature Television's Tom Verlaine and Blue Oyster Cult's Allen Lanier. The sound that John Cale gets on *Horses* is open and a little stark but quite sophisticated. Speaker's Corner has done a sterling job, eliminating the hiss found on the Simply Vinyl pressing and delivering a strong yet subtle sound.

JK

RECORDING

MUSIC

