



SPEAKERS CORNER

Audiophile releases from Germany that boast a complete analogue production chain (www.speakerscornerrecords.com). Up first is Milt Jackson's 'Ballads & Blues'. A major vibraphonist, Jackson was best known as part of the Modern Jazz Quartet but also as a leader. This 1957 Atlantic combines hip-swinging, finger-snapping beats with exploratory ballads.

Brother Jack McDuff was a prolific releaser of LPs in the sixties. Know this though. If you like the sound of the Hammond B-3 organ, get this album. 'Tobacco Road' (1967) also offers a soulful brass section. Beautifully funky.

Also look out for Weather Report's brilliant, adventurous 'Live in Toyko' (1972). The live arena really does bring the group to life while David Lindley's 'El Rayo X' (1981) saw the consummate session player out front for a change, offering rock twisted by a range of genres. Quality stuff.