

Great Movie Sounds of John Barry

Thunderball
007 (from 'From Russia With Love')
Goldfinger
Mr Kiss Kiss Bang Bang (from 'Thunderball')
From Russia With Love
The James Bond Theme
The Chase
Theme From King Rat
The Knack
Seance On A Wet Afternoon
The Ipcress File
Theme From Born Free

Speakers Corner 180gm LP: SBPG 62402

Performance: 5

John Barry (1933-2011) was originally taught composition by the organist at his local church, York Minster, he then learnt the trumpet while in the British Army, formed the successful pop-group The John Barry Seven and acted as an arranger for other acts, before becoming one of the greatest composers of film and TV music the world have ever known. This 1966 LP - which used a superb group of session musicians - screams quality, containing a range of classic tracks that could only come from the Sixties, all of which feature Barry's highly atmospheric scoring and of course loads of great tunes. Performance-wise he often favours slow tempi and the phrasing would often do Mantovani proud, but this is a hugely enjoyable, authentic disc, which once heard, is never forgotten.

Sound

Balance: 4
Inner balance: 4
Detail and clarity: 4
Dynamic range: 4

Given the date, the film storylines, the nature of the instrumentation and that apparently at least twelve-tracks were used, unsurprisingly what comes out of the speakers bears no resemblance to what would have been heard in the studio, with the internal balance being constantly manipulated, some wonderfully eerie echo effects inserted and the strings seem to float somewhere stage-left, while the solo double-bass is very much to the fore, which amplifies the numerous jazz allusions, as is the cimbalom, one of Barry favourite instruments. The only disappointment is that the guitar in the James Bond theme is bass-light and lacks presence and attack. A CD was used for comparison and the LP is altogether superior in its ability to recreate the sounds of that era.