

RY COODER

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SPEAKERS CORNER LP



Before we get into Ry Cooder's 1970 debut, released when he was only 23 but already a veteran of Rising Sons and former sideman to

Captain Beefheart, can we discuss his name? I mean, it's not quite nominative determinism, but could a man called Ry Cooder be anything other than a steel guitar playing troubadour who mixes up blues, rock and folk? A Ry Cooder couldn't be mistaken for a chartered accountant or quantity surveyor, unlike our home grown British bluesmen, who've all got names like Eric, Derek, Alan and Keith. I digress.

So to Cooder's ace debut, originally released by Reprise. Produced by Lenny Waronker and Van Dyke Parks, it's packed with adaptations of classic blues cuts, one Randy Newman song and, on the apocalyptic 'One Meat Ball', a track that bridges Beefheart and Tom Waits, topped off with crack performances from Chris Ethridge, John Barbata and Gloria Jones. If you don't already have it, get it. Ry Cooder, eh?

Thomas Patterson
