

ARETHA

live at fillmore west



Live At Fillmore West

180g

Aretha Franklin

Speakers Corner 7205

What a run the Queen of Soul had between 1967 and 1972, recording nine legendary albums in the space of five years. This live session from San Francisco's great Fillmore West was recorded in early 1971 with Aretha backed by King Curtis' band, a few months before Aretha sang at his funeral. One of the greatest live albums of all time, Aretha sings a mix of her usual material (leading off with 'Respect') and some Beatles and Paul Simon, all the while making the covers sound like they were written for her. But the real gem of the LP comes on side two. After opening with her 'Dr. Feelgood', she segues into fourteen minutes of 'Spirit In The Dark' from her 1970 album of the same name.

After Aretha whips the audience into shape, Ray Charles joins her onstage, and the house breaks out in pandemonium matched only by the brilliance of the give and take between the genius and the queen of soul. This is by no means an audiophile album, which is appropriate. This wasn't Carnegie Hall, after all; it was the Fillmore, and you had to trade off suffering hearing loss to get close to the stage. The mix on this record is far better than you would have heard live. It demands to be turned up louder than normal, and the splendid mastering by Kevin Gray allows for this. **DD**

RECORDING



MUSIC