



Flood

180g

33 RPM

Herbie Hancock

Speakers Corner SOPZ 98-99

Not everyone warmed to Herbie Hancock's new direction in the first half of the 1970s, moving from traditional jazz to more funk soaked popular crossover music. Looking back forty years later, these releases seem less threatening and perhaps even more creative. And among the best of these releases is this two-LP set originally released in 1975 by Columbia's Japanese label. Recorded at two concerts during a Japanese tour of the Headhunters, the band plays updated versions of some of his greatest hits—'Watermelon Man', 'Maiden Voyage' and 'Chameleon'.

The group mixes acoustic instruments, like sax and piano, with electric instruments for an edgy yet acoustic based sound. If you're looking for the latest compositions, look elsewhere as there is little here that's new, but what is here is performed at the peak of the band's abilities playing live to an appreciative audience. The sound varies from 'excellent' to 'knock your socks off'. The band's rendition of 'Chameleon' is one of the most three-dimensional recordings I've ever heard. It's so good that I would want this two LP set for that cut alone. Mastered at Emil Berliner Studios by senior engineer Rainer Maillard, the LPs sound better than ever. **DD**

RECORDING

MUSIC

