

IN THE BASEMENT # 39

CHEATIN' SOUL AND THE SOUTHERN DREAM OF FREEDOM

Trikont (Germany) US 0337

by David Cole

No matter that all or almost all the content here has been on cd before, the collection is pretty damn perfect and Jonathan Fischer is to be heartily congratulated for putting it together. From the opening notes of Janet & the Jays' deepie 'Without A Reason' to the closing notes of Joe Tex's 'The Love You Save', you could put the laser anywhere on this cd and get a stone soul beauty. Just look at the artist listing - maybe not all A-listers in terms of sales and bill-headlining but all A-listers when it comes to appeal to real soul aficionados. O.V. Wright's 'A Nickel And A Nail'... Margie Joseph's early Volt recording, 'Never Can You Be'... Ann Sexton's stirring cheating song, 'I'm His Wife (You're Just A Friend)'... No, this can't be a track-by-track rundown and anyway there's no need, gems each and every one. George Jackson's 'My Desires Are Getting The Best Of Me' lifts the tempo a little and Bobby Bland introduces a blues angle to the cd via 'Rockin' In The Same Old Boat'. Ruby Andrews picks up on William Bell's 'I Don't Wanna Wake Up', her uncredited male duet partner being Elvin Spencer and it's good to see the almost 50-50 split between ladies and gentlemen here, Jean Stanback's 'The Next Man' being another vote winner for the ladies. Guys-wise, how could anybody not like a song called 'I Am A Carpet'? Little Archie's funky Dial recording is worth inclusion on any cd of this kind and Mickey Murray's Jimmy Radcliffe-penned 'East Of Nowhere' keeps the beat going as the brass sporadically plays the opening line from Dobie Gray's 'The In Crowd'. And it's all backed up with a fully detailed booklet in both German and English.



JANET & the JAYS-Without A Reason/O.V. WRIGHT-A Nickel And A Nail; I Don't Know Why/MARGIE JOSEPH-Never Can You Be/ANN SEXTON-I'm His Wife (You're Just A Friend); I Still Love You/GEORGE JACKSON-My Desires Are Getting The Best Of Me/JOE TEX-I Wanna Be Free; The Love You Save/EARL GAINES-Hymn No:5/BOBBY 'BLUE' BLAND-Rockin' In The Same Old Boat; I Wouldn't Treat A Dog/JERRY WASHINGTON-Right Here Is Where I Belong/DORIS DUKE-If She's Your Wife, Who Am I/ANN PEEBLES-Breaking Up Somebody's Home/CLARENCE CARTER-What Was I Supposed To Do/RUBY ANDREWS-I Don't Wanna Wake Up/ SANDRA PHILLIPS-Some Mother's Son/JEAN STANBACK-The Next Man/MARGIE HENDRYX-Don't Destroy Me/WENDY RENE-After Laughter Comes Tears/LITTLE ARCHIE-I Am A Carpet/MICKEY MURRAY-East Of Nowhere