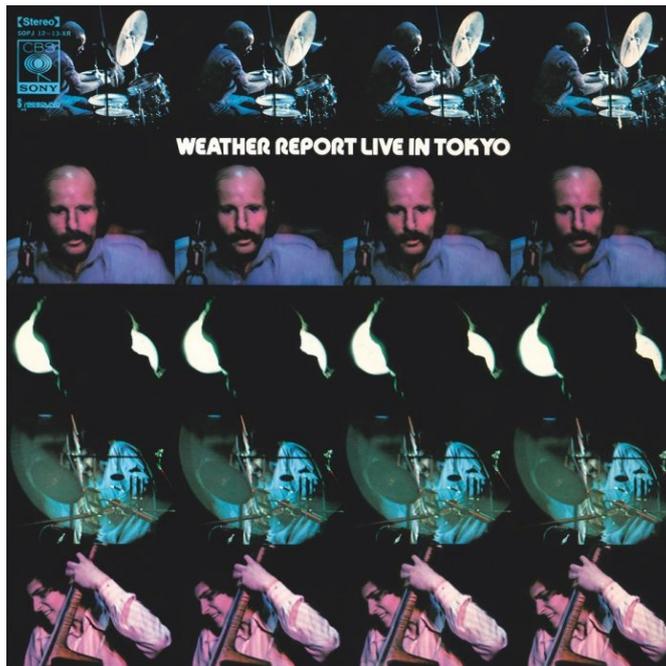


Weather Report: Live In Tokyo

By **Derek Ansell** - 09 May 2019



This was Weather Report's first live performance in a Philharmonic hall in front of a wild audience. It followed on from three studio LPs but was only issued as a live album. It did come out eventually.

The music consists of four sets of medleys. The first, 'Orange Lady', is a sort of fusion and free-baller. The second consists of several short melody fragments. The third features interjections from Zawinul on keyboard.

As for the four medleys they all follow a similar pattern: free flowing followed by stop/start sections and fragmented. Zawinul constantly interjects on piano and adds many additional sounds on various instruments. There is quite a lot of improvisation with constant interjections from drums and bass. Wayne Shorter and Directions are the two most fan favorites.

considerably from past studio efforts or, in the case of Directions, the version Shorter cut with

With most of these pieces, the work is started at low level, built up, dissected at length and gradually frequently hits a good groove only to abandon it before developing it fully and Zawinul's lines contribute fully as part of the ensemble and provides a bass line whenever something starts to really do, the programme consists of a series of stops and starts, varied soundscapes and a focus on drums, Vitous on bass and the exotic percussion from Don Um Romao.

Part free improvisation, part fusion, the group was very popular in their day and this concert was a hit with a Japanese audience. The sound provided by Speakers Corner Records on this 180-gram vinyl double album is excellent and even, indeed, every footstep across the stage.

Artist, label, promoter, publisher? Reach your audience with a JJ RevLink

Discography

Medley: Vertical Invader; Seventh Arrow; T.H.; Doctor Honoris Causa; Medley: Surucu; Orange Lady; Medley: Eurydice; The Moors; Medley: Tears; Umbrella (86.12)

Wayne Shorter (ss); Joe Zawinul (p, elp, kyb); Miroslav Vitous (b); Eric Gravatt (d); Don Um Romao (perc)
Sony Columbia SOP J 12-13-XR / Speakers Corner / 2 LP, vinyl

Opinions or corrections? Send a letter to the editor

REVIEW OVERVIEW

Reviewer rating

SUMMARY

"The sound is first class and points up every note and even, indeed, every footstep across the stage"

