

BOZ SCAGGS 'BOZ SCAGGS VINYL RECORD' (ATLANTIC RECORDS/SPEAKERS CORNER RECORDS/GERMAN IMPORT)

The legendary American singer/songwriter/guitarist BOZ SCAGGS had already released a solo-album in 1966, the collectable debut album Boz, but under his moniker BOZ SCAGGS it all started with the same titled Boz Scaggs, which was released in 1969. 52 years later I received a test pressing vinyl record of this newly remastered album, and like every SPEAKERS CORNER RECORDS release, also this one sounds picture perfect. Musically speaking it was the start of his signature sound, although side-B of the record shows a slightly different side of BOZ SCAGGS. It's a soul injected blues record that has a lot of highlights, such as the beautiful Loan Me A Dime that is a 13 minutes counting blues song that starts calm but as the song develops, it gets more uptempo rocking towards the end, and this song shows a somewhat different BOZ SCAGGS than on his later familiar records. There's also some hillbilly country to be heard, such as Waiting For A Train, and JACKSON BROWNE meets JAMES TAYLOR ish singer/songwriter pop/rock during the excellent Sweet Release that also smells a lot like VAN MORRISON. However, there's of course also the funky R&B influenced soulful rock like we know it from Boz's later albums, such as the lovely midtempo I'm Easy, the soulful ballads I'll Be Gone and Another Day (Another Letter) that have a sorta 1950s SAM COOKE kinda direction, yet the honky-tonk country influenced Now You're Gone is then something else again. One of the most beautiful songs is the TIM HARDIN ish (How Could We Hang On To A Dream) singer/songwriter-pop piece Finding Her, while closing track of side-A is Look What I Got, a very slow country influenced WILLIE NELSON ish song. The mixture of styles makes this BOZ SCAGGS album very interesting, especially since it's his 1969 record that was released years before he would really breakthrough. You could already smell the typical 70s mix of soul, rock, funk, blues and other styles, which would eventually lead to his most successful album Silk Degrees in 1976. Anyway, I would recommend you to check out this solo album if you want to hear how it all started for this legendary musician. The vinyl album is available through: <https://www.jpc.de/?lang=en> (Europe) and <http://www.acousticsounds.com> (USA).

(Points: 8.4 out of 10)