

DAVID LINDLEY 'EL RAYO-X VINYL RECORD' (ASYLUM RECORDS/SPEAKERS CORNER RECORDS/GERMAN IMPORT)

Originally released in 1981, the solo debut album *El Rayo* of singer/songwriter/multi-instrumentalist DAVID LINDLEY has been carefully remastered a few years ago and re-released on vinyl. He played alongside CROSBY, STILLS, NASH & YOUNG, LINDA RONDSTADT and JACKSON BROWNE and several others besides being part of the psychedelic rockband KALEIDOSCOPE back in the 1970s before starting a solo career which was launched when he released this album 41 years ago. The included music was quite typical late 70s/early 80s American pop/rock, sounding a bit slick here and there, but always catchy and melodic, not far removed from the likes of PHIL SEYMOUR, JAY FERGUSON, MOON MARTIN, NICK LOWE and especially JACKSON BROWNE, who also makes a guest appearance here. There's a reggae touch in one of the major hits of this album, which is the cover of the EVERLY BROTHERS classic *Bye Bye Love*, and also during *Quarter Of A Man*, *Ain't No Way* and several other songs, but when David goes for the uptempo rockier approach, then we are heading into pure early 80s powerpop bliss, such as during the catchy somewhat quirky *Mercury Blues* that sounds like a mix of MOON MARTIN and THE ROMANTICS, yet with a bluesy sharp guitar solo. Other musicians whom join David are GARTH HUDSON (horns), CURTY BOUTERSE (dulcimer), BOB GLAUB (bass), REGGIE MCBRIDE (bass), WILLIAM SMITH (organ), BILLY PAYNE (organ), IAN WALLACE (drums), RAS BABOO (percussion) and vocalists JORGE CALDERON and JACKSON BROWNE as already mentioned. The resulting album sounds very fresh, yet with that quirky early 80s reggae pop rock vibe, and it is definitely recommended to the fans of any of the mentioned acts. The vinyl album is available through: <https://www.jpc.de/?lang=en> (Europe) and <http://www.acousticsounds.com> (USA).

(Points: 8.2 out of 10)