

AUDIOFILE VINYL



HOT PICK

The Butterfield Blues Band
East West

180g vinyl

Speakers Corner



THE SECOND ALBUM

by Paul Butterfield, Mike Bloomfield and his racially mixed band sounds as though it should have come out a few years before its actual 1966 release date, but such thinking would be to forget that the blues had all but disappeared from the mainstream until the likes of The Rolling Stones, John Mayall and others brought it kicking and screaming back from obscurity.

Butterfield was one of the first US acts to jump on the revival and it's not hard to hear why. With

two strong guitarists, a great rhythm section and his own vocals and blues harp, they were a class act. The material is varied, but mostly in the classic delta style, albeit there are stirrings of rock in the 13-minute title track - which is by far the strongest number here.

The sound is pure Sixties: it has the redline-pushing, mid-forward, naturally compressed high energy that Jack White would probably kill for yet is almost impossible to replicate in the digital age. There is a decent use of stereo for the time and while the guitars and harp scream at times, this only gets uncomfortable on the rare crescendos. Speaker's Corner has once again done an excellent job with the transfer and pressing. **JK**