

## **ARETHA FRANKLIN WITH THE RAY BRYANT COMBO 'ARETHA VINYL RECORD' (COLUMBIA RECORDS/ SPEAKERS CORNER RECORDS/GERMAN IMPORT)**

Nowadays we are listening to YOLA, ADELE and of course the late AMY WHINEHOUSE, but 60 years ago an 18-year old girl sang on a record that was produced by Columbia's record producer JOHN H. HAMMOND. Aretha was the debut album of the mighty ARETHA FRANKLIN, and it was recorded in New York between August 1960 and January 1961. This album has been carefully remastered by SPEAKERS CORNER RECORDS, and it has never sounded better on vinyl than now via this new vinyl release. Musically speaking, there is a wonderful mix of slow and uptempo pieces here, and on each and every song Aretha sounds like the queen of soul she would later become. Right from the start it's spot-on, no holding back, Aretha is delivering an amazing vocal performance here, and you would never think this was an 18-year old girl singing. She was backed by THE RAY BRYANT TRIO, and the included material is a nice mix of pop and jazz standards. Are You Sure for example is a sensational uptempo piece that shows Aretha at her most soulful rocking way like only for example ETTA JAMES and TINA TURNER could ever accomplish. A song like It Ain't Necessarily So on the other hand is a pure slow bluesy tune with a jazzy twist and an incredible vocal performance by Aretha, clearly showing where AMY WHINEHOUSE got her inspiration from! Not a single weak moment to be found here, and as aforementioned, the crystal clear sound of this new vinyl release is just phenomenal. The vinyl album is available through: <https://www.jpc.de/?lang=en> (Europe) and <http://www.acousticsounds.com> (USA).

***(Points: 8.6 out of 10)***