

MR BONGO

- 1977's *Funk Reaction* finds Hammond B3 organ virtuoso Lonnie Smith at his most dance-floor-friendly.
- Dripping with groove and swagger, this album skates between jazz-funk, cosmic disco radiance, beat-laden slow-jams and conscious psychedelic soul.
- Single LP in gatefold sleeve.

Continuing Mr Bongo's series exploring the wealth of material released through the record labels of Sonny Lester, 1977's *Funk Reaction* finds **Hammond B3 organ virtuoso** Lonnie Smith at his most dancefloor-friendly. Dripping with groove and swagger, this album skates between **jazz-funk, cosmic disco** radiance, beat-laden slow-jams and conscious **psychedelic soul**.

Having played with the likes of **George Benson** and **Lou Donaldson** in the '60s, alongside releasing a string of albums on **Columbia** and **Blue Note**, *Funk Reaction* sees Smith move into late '70s disco-funk-tinged territory.

Originally released on **Sonny Lester's Groove Merchant Records** successor, **Lester Radio Corporation**, the album feels more like a collaborative band-orientated project as opposed to a solo artist outing. Featuring some elite session players of the time, including **Steve Gadd** on drums, guitarist **Lance Quinn** and bassist **Bob Babbitt**, the album is tied together expertly by songwriter, arranger and conductor **Brad Baker**.

It's worth the price tag alone for the superb disco-funk nugget 'Funk Reaction'. Other highlights include the only Lonnie Smith penned track on the album 'All In My Mind', that shines with a beautiful **Stevie Wonder-esque** quality and the slick guitar-led floater 'When The Night Is Right', written by and featuring guitarist **Richie Hohenburger**. Elsewhere, 'For The Love Of It' and the Brad Babbitt written 'Babbitt's Other Song' serve up classic jazz funk flavours, both featuring stellar tenor saxophone from **Eddie Daniels**.

As a whole, the album is a superb example of Lonnie Smith's ability to merge jazz with elements of funk, soul, disco and beyond, experimenting with ideas whilst broadening the scope of both his audience and appeal. Fans of **The Blackbyrds**, the **CTI / Kudu** stable and '70s **George Benson** will dig this!

LONNIE SMITH

FUNK REACTION



RELEASE DATE

24th MAY 2024

FORMAT

VINYL LP

CD

MRBLP298

7119691295312

MRBCD298

7119691295428

FILE UNDER

JAZZ FUNK

DISCO

FUNK

TRACK-LISTING:

1. Funk Reaction
2. For The Love Of It
3. Babbitt's Other Song
4. It's Changed
5. When The Night Is Right
6. All In My Mind

LISTEN: [ALBUM](#)

