

NEW RELEASES

FEBRUARY 1995

ALBERT COLLINS, ROBERT CRAY & JOHNNY COPELAND

Showdown!

UDCD 620 • UPC 015775162020

What do you get when you mix "The Master Of The Telecaster" and "The Texas Twister" with one of the hottest young blues guitarists of the '80s and '90s? A scorching guitar summit showcasing three guitar masters as they push each other, and themselves, to the limit—and three friends having a great time. The Grammy-Award winning **Showdown!** was a smashing success for all three guitarists: it elevated Collins to blues superstar status; inspired some of the finest work Copeland has ever produced (earning him a W.C. Handy Award for his performance here); and introduced Cray's inventive guitar style to a wide blues audience that paved the way for his commercial breakthrough album **Strong Persuader** (available on Ultradisc II™, UDCD 564).

Collins' and Copeland's friendship began back in the '50s in the blues bars of Houston, with Collins teaching Copeland his first few guitar licks. Fifteen years later, high school rock and roll guitar player Cray "finds the blues" one night after hearing Collins play.

The now-master bluesman took Cray under his wing and taught him the ways of the Texas blues guitar, helping to launch Cray as one of the leaders of the '80s blues revival.

It was only these three friends who could have inspired the performances found on this album. They play with an innate E.S.P. of the others' style, prodding, provoking and pushing each other. This Ultradisc II™ issue of **Showdown!** features new liner notes by producer Bruce Iglauer as he looks back on what he calls "one of the most exciting recording sessions of my career."

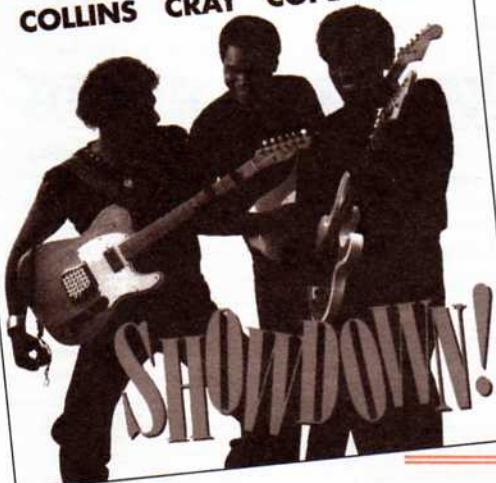
Full selections are: *T-Bone Shuffle*, *The Moon Is Full*, *Lion's Den*, *She's Into Something*, *Bring Your Fine Self Home*, *Black Cat Bone*, *The Dream*, *Albert's Alley* and *Blackjack*. ■

ULTRADISC II
—The GAIN System—



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COLLINS CRAY COPELAND



ARETHA FRANKLIN

Lady Soul —and— Aretha Now

(2 LPs on 1 CD)

UDCD 623 • UPC 015775162327

SINGLE DISC PRICE!

ARETHA NOW / LADY SOUL

2 LPs
on 1 CD

Aretha Franklin followed up her hugely successful 1967 Atlantic album, *I Never Loved A Man (The Way I Love You)* (UDCD 574), with these two smash 1968 releases that firmly established her as the reigning Queen of Soul. Some of Aretha's most famous and soul-stirring music is included in this special 2 LPs-on-1-CD Ultradisc II™ release that captures her in all her vocal glory, integrating her gift for gospel phrasing into secular material.

Riding the wave of sudden success, *Lady Soul* was released in January, 1968, achieving gold status and adding two more chart-topping million-selling singles — *Chain Of Fools* and *Since You've Been Gone (Sweet Sweet Baby)*. Guided by producer Jerry Wexler and engineer Tom Dowd, Aretha teamed up with such backup personnel as King Curtis, Bobby Womack, Frank Wess and others, including a guest spot by Eric Clapton, then with Cream, on the track *Good To Me As I Am To You*.

Aretha had hit her stride and the new Queen of Soul kept moving forward. February 24, 1968, was declared "Aretha Franklin Day" by the mayor of Detroit, and twelve thousand fans gathered to see her receive a total of 12 awards from the music trade publications *Billboard*, *Cashbox* and *Record World*. The Rev.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. — a close family friend — was on hand to present Aretha with a special award from the Southern Christian Leadership Council. Backed by the Sweet Inspirations, Aretha worked the crowd for 90 minutes, singing hit after hit.

By mid-April, Aretha was busy in Atlantic's New York City recording studios laying down the final

tracks for yet another gold album, *Aretha Now*, released in June, 1968. Eventually becoming her sixth million-seller single and R&B chart topper, *Think* was a strong personal statement that became an echo of the African-American struggle of the time: civil rights leader King was assassinated on the very day (April 15) the song was recorded. Again produced by Jerry Wexler and arranged by Tom Dowd and Arif Mardin, the album includes five strong covers, including Sam Cooke's 1957 smash hit *You Send Me*, each delivered in Aretha's own groovin' style.

Full selections on this special release, totaling 20 songs, are: *Lady Soul* — *Chain Of Fools*, *Money Won't Change You*, *People Get Ready*, *Niki Hoeky*, *(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman*, *Since You've Been Gone (Sweet Sweet Baby)*, *Good To Me As I Am To You*, *Come Back Baby*, *Groovin'* and *Ain't No Way*. *Aretha Now* — *Think*, *I Say A Little Prayer*, *See Saw*, *Night Time Is The Right Time*, *You Send Me*, *You're A Sweet Sweet Man*, *I Take What I Want*, *Hello Sunshine*, *A Change and I Can't See Myself Leaving You*. ■

ULTRADISC II
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