



Johnny Griffin

180g

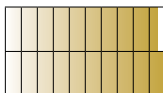
The Congregation

Music Matters/Blue Note 81580

This was the third and final Blue Note LP cut by Griffin for Blue Note, before moving on to Riverside after creative differences with Rudy Van Gelder. Griffin was one of the monumental tenor saxophone jazz players and he could play and make the changes fast like Coltrane or sing ballads like Ben Webster. He is joined here by piano blues great Sonny Clark, Paul Chambers on bass and Kenny Dennis on drums in 'The Congregation'. This is one of the greatest Blue Note albums, with a mostly medium tempo blues/gospel infused vibe. Add to that the Andy Warhol cover and this became an expensive collectable in its original incarnation.

Until now, all but the most fanatic collector had to make do with a reissue. However, this new issue solves that problem (at least until the edition sells out). It easily blows the barn doors off any other version. The stereo presentation is as good as Rudy ever achieved – no artificial left/right ping-pong sound. Unlike much of Van Gelder's piano recordings, this one doesn't sound like the instrument is under a blanket. Kevin Gray and Steve Hoffman have buffed up this already great sounding LP into one of the finest gems in the Music Matters catalog. **DD**

RECORDING



MUSIC