



TOKYOLISTENING

Listening Room Pop-Up Vol 1 — Playlist & Equipment

Thank you for being part of something special — where music is central, with good people, where there is reverence to music and respect to listening culture & good sushi!

"This is the beginning of busy season and I am aware that you may not have time to read, but if you could scroll down the album jacket artworks and HiFi set list, watch the superbly edited video footage by TribeWnos and Chop'em Down Films at least, and could feel the sense of community listening from this newsletter, I am grateful."

Watch: 17 Nov Vol 1 — edited by TribeWnos & Chop'em Down Films

On 17 November, over 100 music lovers gathered at M39 for our first listening room pop-up. Sold out. Not much talking over the music, Just good music & vinyl on a quality sound system in the community - and that rare feeling of tuning in together.

For those who were there — and those who couldn't make it — here's what we played, what we played it on, and why.

THE PLAYLIST — by Omakase Community Music

Selectors

Each track was selected intentionally. It is a partial Music Based Life Review. (A full review is where you divide your life into 5 stages & choose 2-3 songs/sounds/any audio elements that represent that stage of your life — this is a soundtrack you make of your life.)



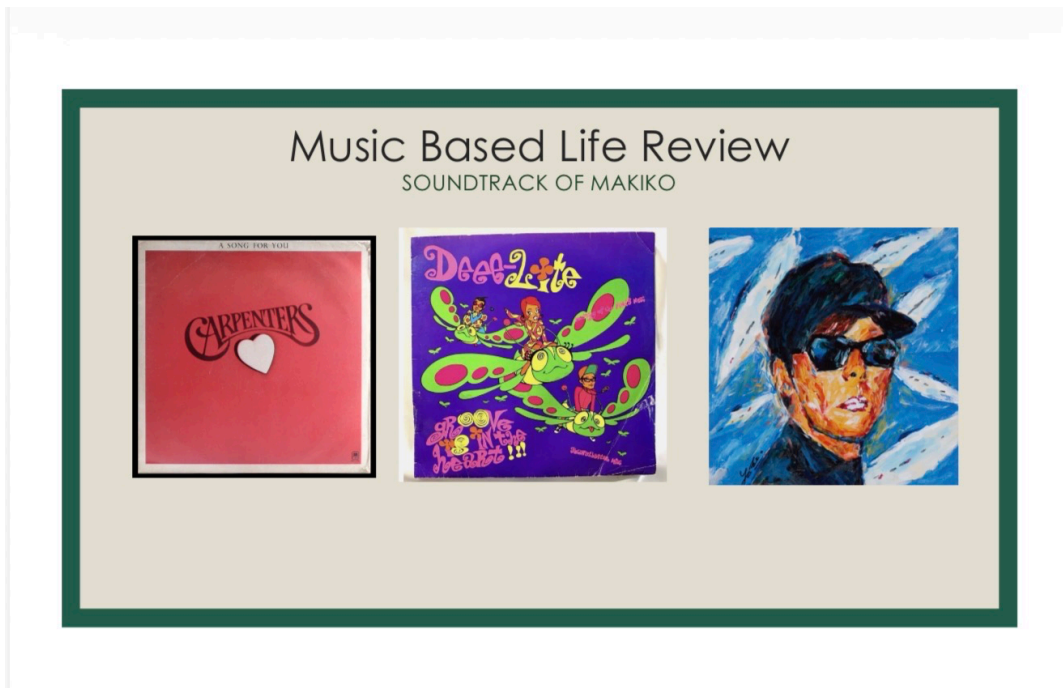
1. "THE PROPHET" (feat. Yukihiro Takahashi & Haruomi Hosono) — Towa Tei

from LP "AH!!!"

Selected by Makiko TOKYOLISTENING - *Founder of TOKYOLISTENING. Former Music Business Manager in Tokyo and Music/Culture Consultant. Designing listening rooms to foster community engagement and promote music as medicine. Nostalgic about years spent traveling the world with bands and DJs, vinyl crates and beautiful costumes in tow, building connections through sound.*

Towa Tei's music taught me this principle: **Music Transcends!** His music breathes Cultural Resonance. "I only listen to Classical Music, but this unpredictable mixture... I had a feeling this must be a special composition. It must be a universe sign," — my beautiful piano teacher Victoria seemed intrigued by new sound as well as others at the event seemed genuinely drawn to this sound "they'd never heard before but really liked." **Towa Tei's "Groove is in the Heart"** — his work with Deee-Lite — was similar. I remember whenever this tune — a type of music we never heard before — played, very diverse variety of people just instantly bonded dancing - sharing the groove. This song pushed me into the idea of working in the music industry. I was in Boston then. It was mind-blowing to discover that music like that was created by a trio of band members from Japan, US and Russia - from a deeply freely creative independent scene — to skyrocketed into global stage hitting top slots on Billboard! Their appearance was so artistically funky — a mixture of many cultural elements with respect to that of music. That felt like a taste of Tokyo, too. My younger self was thinking idealistically: I want to work in a place where music transcends, where things are borderless and merge!

The album "AH!!!" is a forefront album — interestingly, its lyrics were written entirely with AI assistance. The last track "Happy Ending" in our event recap video was composed with AI assistance, though Towa Tei re-recorded guitar elements with real instruments played by accomplished human musicians. 👍 Clever use of AI. Though the choice of whether to use it or not is entirely decided by the artist. If interested, [further reading here](#).



"Intermission" — "Bless the Beast and Children" by Carpenters

from LP "A Song For You"

Selected by Makiko TOKYOLISTENING

"Karen Carpenter's vocals deeply ignited my reverence for music which my much older siblings introduced me to. I still manage to keep that protective feeling that I felt from this song and the rather peculiar intermission as a child. *And it is that heart shaped candy* which I could never taste! It looked and still does look so yummy. "

Below — more interesting reads on music selectors from our music lovers community.



THE HIGH-FIDELITY AUDIO SETTING — EQUIPMENT LIST

QUALITY SOUND was central to our experience. Here's what we listened on: It is very very - tempting to have this set up at home.

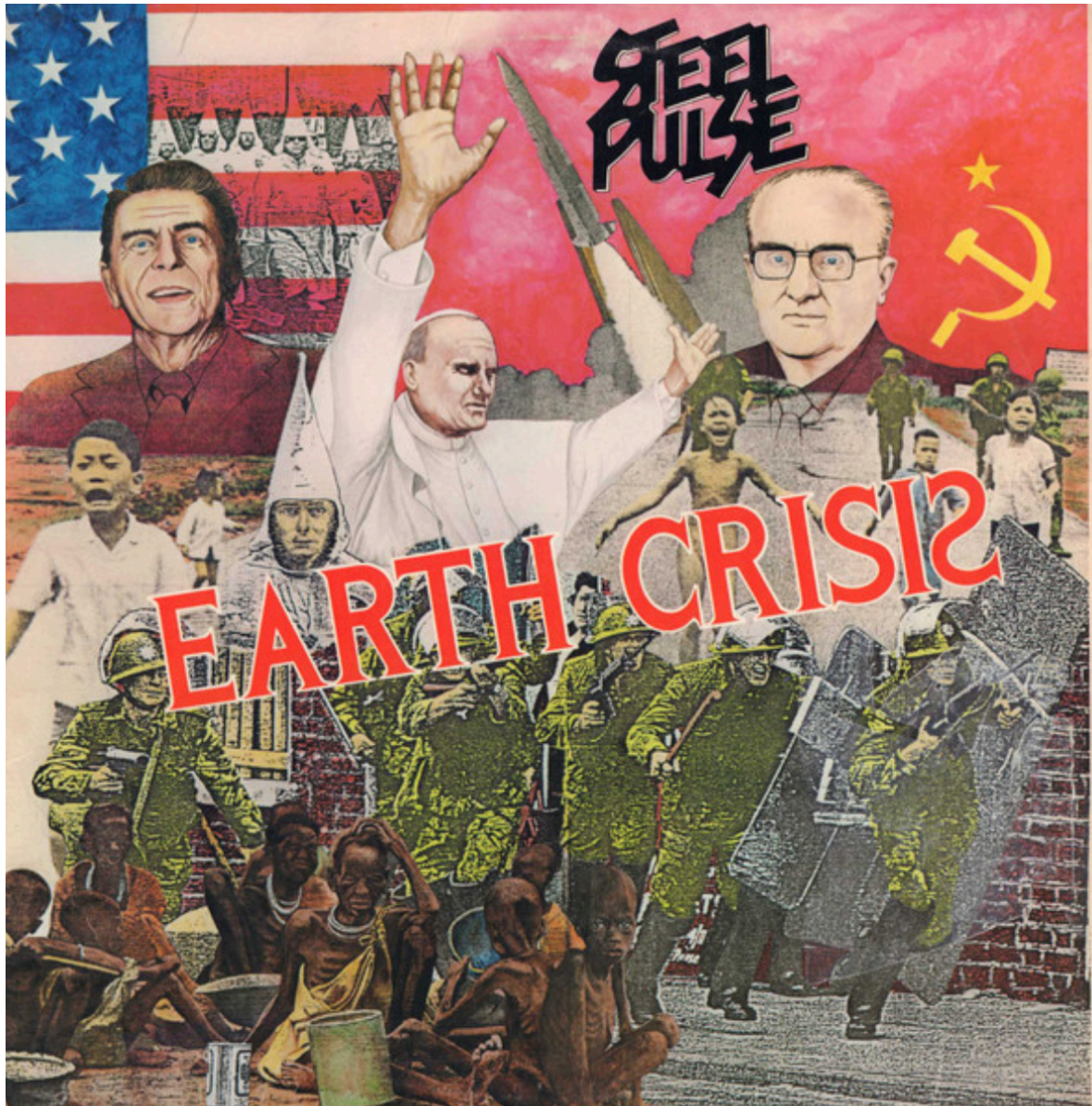
Turntable: Audio-Technica "Hotaru" (Limited Edition Floating Turntable) [Purchase \(MENA region\)](#) → [DJ Corner](#)

***About Audio-Technica:** Since its founding in 1962, Audio-Technica has been a leading Japanese audio manufacturer, committed to innovation in sound technology based on its unique "analog" philosophy — **emphasising that human sensitivity and humanity are the essence of richness.** In 2022, marking its 60th anniversary, Audio-Technica unveiled its new brand message: "Always analog."*

Speakers: TAD ME-1TX (Micro Evolution One) — Compact Bookshelf Speakers Launched 2024 — the latest model in their range of high-end bookshelf speakers [View](#) → [Raw Music Store](#)

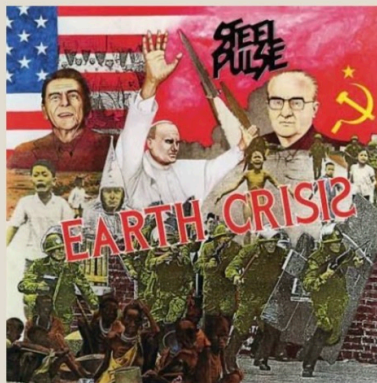
Power Amplifier: TAD M1000 Evolution [View](#) → [Raw Music Store](#)

Preamplifier: TAD C1000 Evolution [View](#) → [Raw Music Store](#)
All amplification by legendary Japanese audio brand [TAD \(Technical Audio Devices\)](#)



Music Based Life Review

SOUNDTRACK OF HAKIM



2. "Stepping Out" – Steel Pulse

from LP "Earth Crisis"

Selected by Hakim RAW MUSIC STORE - Founder and owner of Raw Music Store. One of passionate music lover co-founders, brothers with Yassine. Hakim holds a collection of several thousand vinyl records — including multiple copies of the same album released in different countries. His selections trace the lineage of sound system culture and the records that shaped a life devoted to quality audio.

I asked Hakim for songs from two stages in his life:

1. Music which sparked his love of music
2. Music which made him pursue work in music/HiFi audio

He sent me just ONE. This!

"Just that first drum sound (which surely must have landed & been living deeply in Hakim's brain and soul to this day) and that steel drum sound. That was it. *If my uncle hadn't shown me this vinyl, f I hadn't listened to this first song, I would be a different person doing something completely different now!t.*"



3. "Chan Chan" — Buena Vista Social Club

from LP "Buena Vista Social Club"

Selected by Sven Van Laere Audio-Technica (Japan) - *Quality audio and vinyl aficionado, guitarist of the slash metal band — ten years with Audio-Technica. He plays ESP Guitars which is also made in Japan. Sven brings technical precision and deep listening sensibility to each demonstration, connecting the mechanics of sound reproduction with the soul of the music itself.*

"This is my go-to track for cartridge demos. You can really hear what's happening in the room where they're recording — a lot of information happening simultaneously. And besides that, it's a great record."



4. "Where I'm Meant To Be" — Ezra Collective

from LP "Where I'm Meant To Be"

Selected by Sven Van Laere Audio-Technica (Japan)

"An amazing album by UK jazz band Ezra Collective — a unique fusion of jazz, funk, hip hop, and beyond. Joyous, horn-filled grooves that connect continents and consciousness. My personal favourites on this album are "Victory Dance" immediately followed by "No Confusion."



5. "Freestyler" — Bomfunk MC's

from LP "25th Anniversary Edition"

Selected by Sven Van Laere Audio-Technica (Japan)

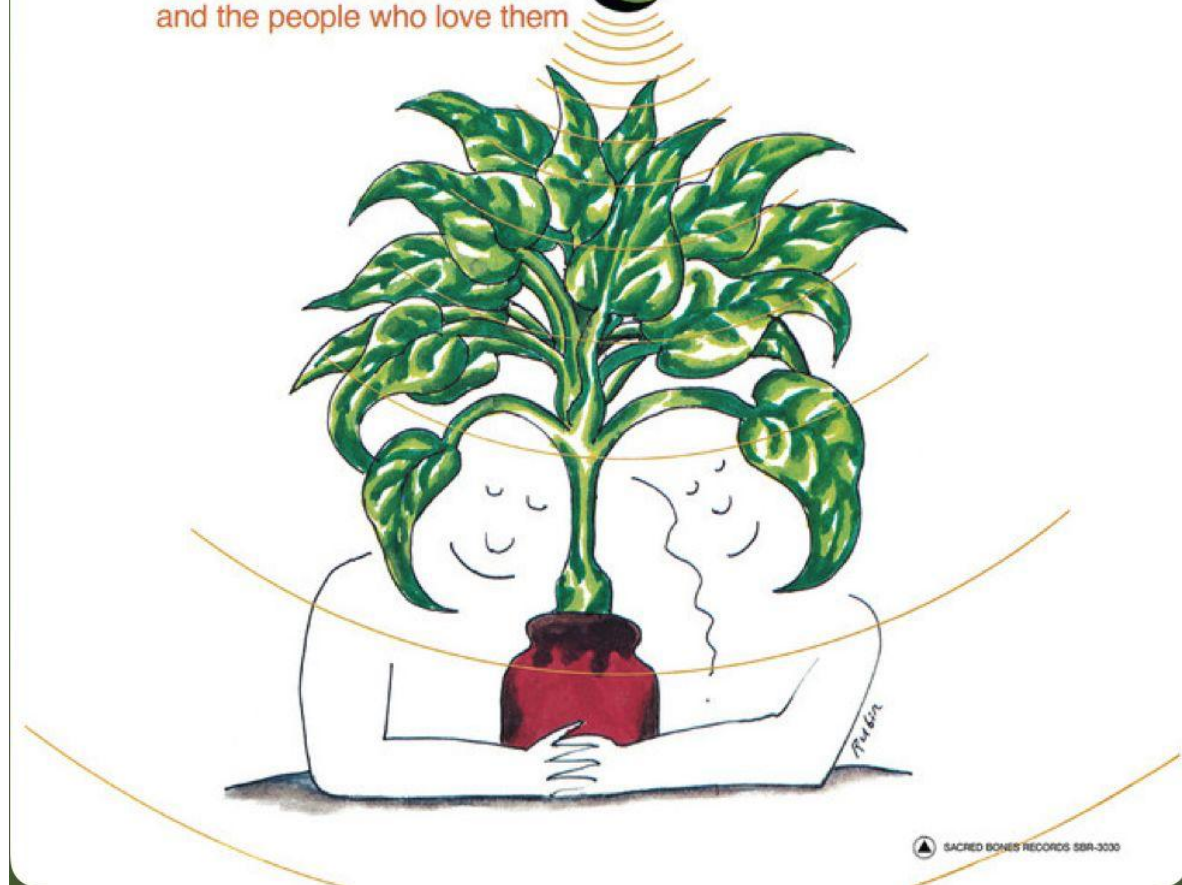
"Part of the soundtrack of my youth. Twenty-five years ago, this song was hugely popular on the radio. I still remember when I was 12 years old, recording the top 10 each week on cassettes, hoping they would play this song."

MOTHER EARTH'S

STEREO LP

Plantasia

warm earth music for plants...
and the people who love them

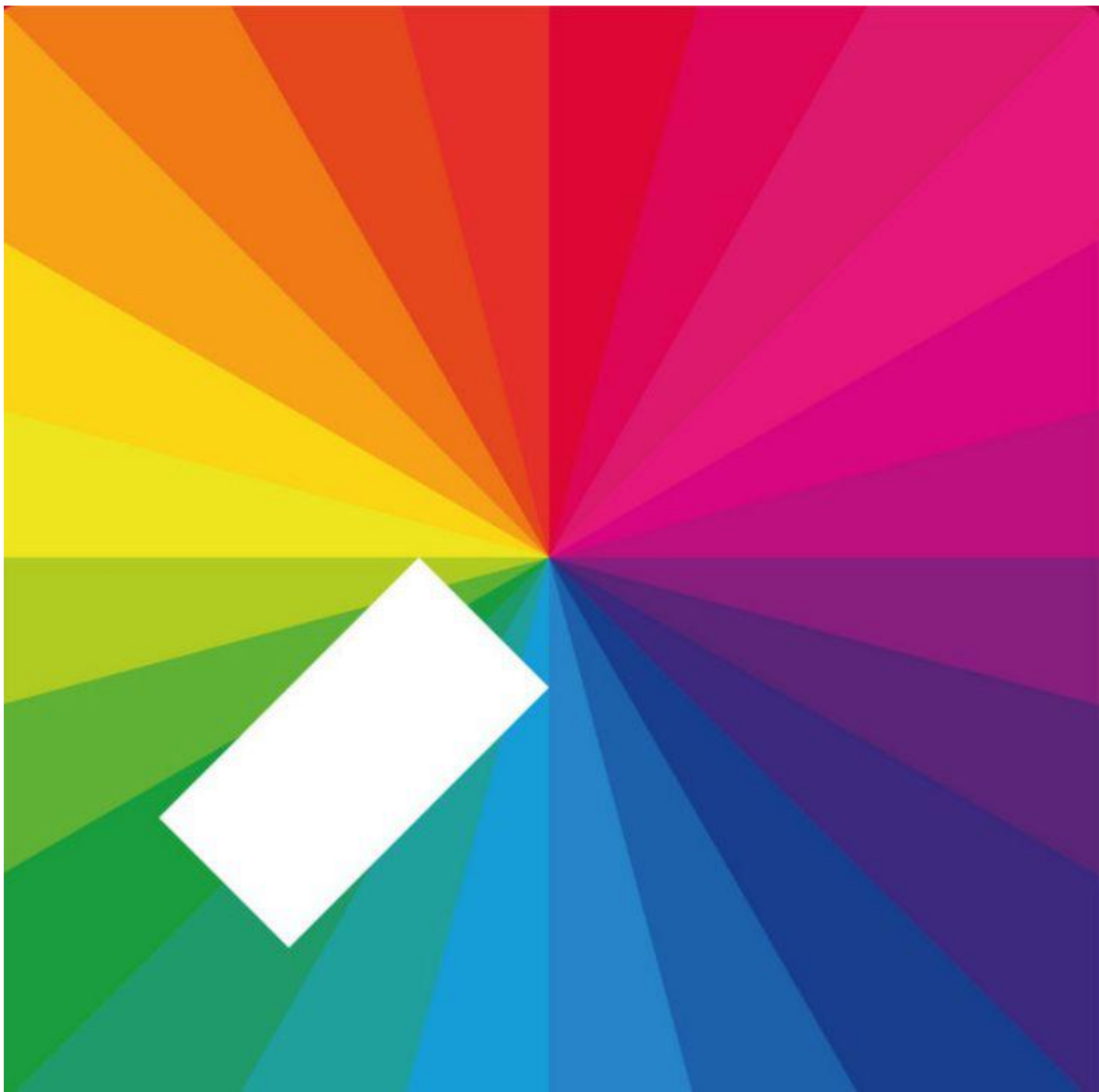


6. "Plantasia" — Mort Garson

from LP "Mother Earth's Plantasia"

Selected by Sultan Ideations Professional - *Design at the heart and soul of his work developing Abu Dhabi, as well as equally importantly developing his vinyl collection. A frequent traveller to Japan, Sultan brings curiosity and cosmic sensibility to his selections — music that moves beyond genre into ritual, reflection, and botanical wonder!*

"I chose to play the first song called 'Plantasia' because it's dreamy, weird, and helps my plants grow." !!! Community LOVED this album selection too.



7. "Gosh" — Jamie xx

from LP "In Colour"

Selected by Sultan Ideations Professional

"Jamie xx was the producer and beatmaker for the band The xx. 'Gosh' is one of my favourite bass tracks — powerful, deep, and dancy."

8. "Loud Places" — Jamie xx

from LP "In Colour"

Selected by Sultan Ideations Professional

"A beautiful track that hits you with nostalgia."

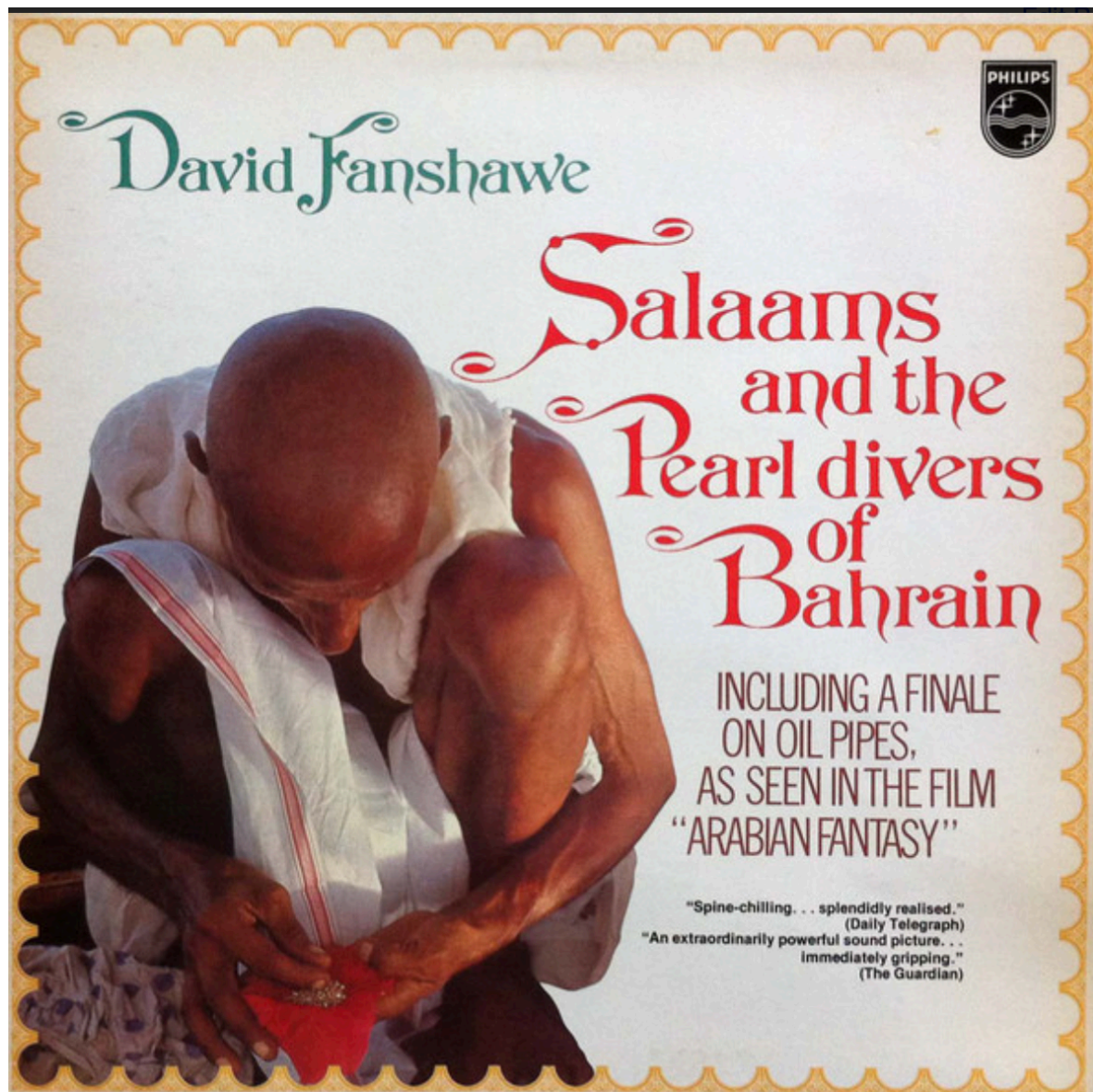


9. "Tala Tannam" — Mdou Moctar

From LP "Afrique Victime"

Selected by Sultan Ideations Professional

"I love this genre called desert blues. The genre is equally simple and complex — hypnotic guitar work meets Saharan tradition, creating something transcendent. For those drawn to this sound, look up a band called Tinariwen."

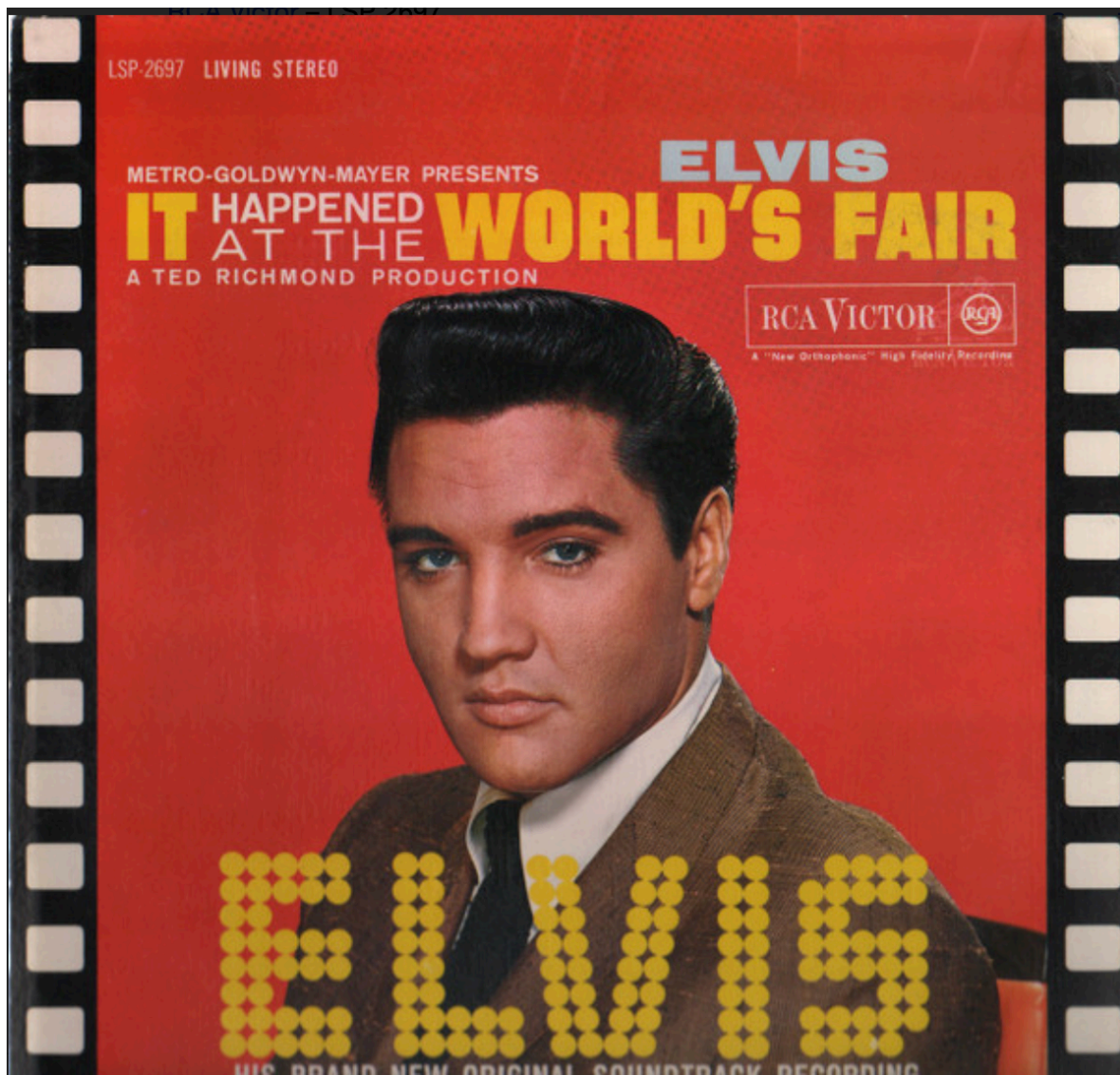


10. "Salim L-Allan & Pearl Divers" — David Fanshawe

from LP "Salaams and the Pearl Divers of Bahrain"

Selected by Christopher Benton Artist - *Currently showing his solo exhibition "The Obligation of the Circle" at Bao Galleria. Christopher's work and music selection connects Arabian heritage with global discovery, unearthing sound and other forms of heritage as deeply meaningful cultural preservation.*

"This vinyl from Bahrain — I found it in Japan." In 1977, English ethnomusicologist David Fanshawe recorded the chants and songs of the pearl divers. This enchanting musical anthology captures the essence of Arabian pearl diving's musical traditions — a hauntingly beautiful piece of Gulf heritage. "Pearl diving is also an important cultural heritage of the UAE, and it is important to recognise the identities of those pearl divers."



11. "Beyond The Bend" Elvis Presley

from LP "It Happened at the World's Fair"

Selected by Lindsay Campbell-Crafts M39 -Marketing & Communications and an Elvis -devotee who must have listened to this particular vinyl countless times. "I don't want to say anything – Just LISTEN.."

(The groove was so worn it had a scar at the beginning and we couldn't really play it...)

WHAT'S NEXT?

Vol 2 – We're cooking ideas with groovy, good music lovers locally as well as with the help from music people in Tokyo. We will see you in the New Year with more good music listening with good people & good sushi.

Next time please bring your vinyls to share with your community!

TOKYOLISTENING is a community collaboration platform, so please do get in touch via email below to talk about any future collaboration ideas.

With Music Love,

TOKYOLISTENING



"Choose Community"

With Study supported by Berklee Music & Health Institute

— survey results to follow.

Special Thanks to Audio-Technica Japan, Raw Music Store, and M39.

Good sushi by a very good chef: Chef Miwa. Good matcha by ArtCha

TOKYOLISTENING Music as Medicine



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