



Ian Tyson **"Live At Longview"** Vanguard Records

Tyson has been a professional musician for some fifty years, he'll turn seventy next year, and despite his protestation in the liner notes that *"Recording live, is kind of like singin', pickin' and walking the high wire all at once,"* he does it with [nothing less than] consummate ease. On this *live* set, Ian sets his store out from the *get go* with the introduction, *"We're going to do some old songs and a bunch of new ones, and I hope you enjoy them. Let's get started."*

Of the seventeen cuts, seven make their debut on this disc. Well almost, since "Someday Soon" is a tune that Judy Collins read beautifully on her classic **"Who Knows Where The Time Goes"** collection nearly thirty five years ago, while, with Sylvia Tyson, Ian had debuted the song four years earlier on their album **"Northern Journey."** It seems somewhat odd, that this is the first time Ian has cut the song as a solo act. Maintaining the rodeo song tradition of "Someday Soon," the semi-song, semi-spoken rap "Jerry Ambler" recalls the late World Saddle Bronco champion of 1946. The *other* new songs featured here amount to "Desert Rose," "Sorta Together," "Somewhere In The Rubies," "Little High Plains Town" and "Bob Fudge."

Ian opens the album with the Juno winning Tom Russell co-write "Navajo Rug," and along the way includes many well-known tunes. For instance, "Old Corrals And Sagebrush" and "I Outgrew The Wagon" were Tyson album titles in the past. "Fifty Years Ago" is a recollection of love and passion with Juanita in the *alley at the back of Mona's*, while in "Smuggler's Cove" Ian paints fond childhood memories of times with his father among *the rocks and driftwood*. Thrown in for good measure, there's a cover of "Blue Moon," the Rodgers and Hart composed 1948 million seller for Billy Eckstein. *Timeless* is a much-abused word, but what Tyson has been creating for decades is music which is precisely that.

Folkwax Rating 7 out of 10

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