



The most complete musical work listed here on earBuzz from Chuck Leavell is a Grammy justified collection of music titled ***Southscape***. The music encapsulates Leavell's love for the South with songs that weave through vast genre tapestries traveling from Native American meditations to jazz-comped spaces. Along-side a full band of exacting troubadours that provide a sparse menu of culinary perfection - not least of which are guitars from Larry Carlton. The supportive artists include Chad Cromwell on drums, Michael Rhodes on bass, Randall Bramblett and Tim Ries on saxophones, and Eric Darken on percussion. The CD opens with "Tomato Jam" a NAMM-style jam that features a downward modulating theme that resolves and makes way for the instrumental melody - setting up Leavell for acrobatic and cascading runs and expression. Ries is also featured in the tune as is his understated and mellow-toned phrases - syncopated and energized lines that complement the composition. Track 2, "Savannah", calms from the Tomato experience and revolves around a beautiful theme arpeggiated into Leavell's signature landscape. Track 3, "Pagan Pigdance", airs things out with an introduction that serves as a spiritual appetizer to what ultimately becomes a groove based journey owing its roots to rock. The beauty of track 5's, "Altamaha", is clearly the most inspired piece on the record. A Google search reveals it to be a beloved and protected river system in Georgia - Leavell's home. The final track, "Cherokee Wind", is timeless music that celebrates the spiritual kindness in Native American intervals and tones. The song begins with Randall Bramblett's recorder, mysterious and intimate - supported by Leavell. Bramblett moves his saxophone over the bare chord transitions. The CD is a fine fine work.