

CONFESSIONS OF A VINYL JUNKIE

From his collection of 2,500 vinyl LPs, the rock star has selected his greatest discoveries, and some record-buying memories as well. One way or another, he writes, he had to get these on CD

BY DAVID BOWIE



"The Last Poets are one of the fundamental building blocks of rap"

- David Bowie



FOR THE RECORDS
David Bowie combed through his record collection before embarking on a world tour. Photographed in New York City on April 27, 2002.

There is really no way to do a list of my favorite albums with any rationality. I do only have about 2,500 vinyls. There is a possibility there. I'll look through the albums and pull together a list of those I have re-bought or am in the process of re-buying on CD. I have little time, and there are just too many to sort through. So, I'll keep pulling stuff out blindly, and if it's too obvious (*Sgt. Pepper*, Nirvana) I'll put it back again till I find something more interesting. A lot of the rock stuff I have is the same as everyone else's, and I have so many blues and R&B albums that it would topple over into transpotter world if I went that route.

O.K., no rules then. I'll just make 'em up as I go along. I'd say half of this list below is now on my CD racks, but many are finding impossible to trace. The John Lee Hooker album, for instance,

or *The Red Flower of Tachai Blossoms Everywhere*. I have done the only thing possible and burned them to CD myself, reduced the cover art down to size, and made reasonable simulacrum of the originals.

If you can possibly get your hands on any of these, I guarantee you evenings of listening pleasure, and you will encourage a new high-minded circle of friends, although one or two choices will lead some of your old pals to think you completely barmy. So, without chronology, genre, or reason, herewith, in no particular order, 25 albums that could change your reputation.

THE LAST POETS, THE LAST POETS (1970, Douglas)
One of the fundamental building blocks of rap. All the essential "griot" narrative skills, splintered with anger here, produce one of the most political vinyls to ever crack the Billboard chart. While talking rap (what?), I can piggyback this great treat with the 1974 compilation *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised* (Flying Dutchman), which pulls together the best of the formidable Gil Scott-Heron works.

