

## **Various Artists - *Inner City Sound***

“Not only does *Inner City Sound* chronicle the post-punk underground of Australia in the late ‘70s and early ‘80s, it offers a two-disc, forty-seven-song crash course on the movement. Of course there are proven winners here, from Hunters and Collectors (“The Slab”) and The Saints (“Wild About You” and “Ghost ships”), to The Go-Betweens (“Darlington Nights”) and the Birthday Party (“Release The Bats”). But who knew how great the Primitive Calculators (“Do That Dance”), the Lighthouse Keepers (“Springtime”), and the Wet Taxi’s (“C’mon”) were? The answer to that question is Clinton Walker, whose 1982 book *Inner City Sound* told the story of many of the included bands. Walker, who claims that the Australian post-punk scene never got its due in the manner of the movement in England and America, certainly has a point. The Fall and Pere Ubu are often cited as major post-punk players, but Aussie outfits like Seems Twice, Leftovers, and Surfside 6 boast the kind of innovation that should have established them as more than musical footnotes of the genre. Disc One fires with the punk-y intensity of The Ramones and The Clash, cataloguing fiery numbers from the likes of Last Words (“Animal World”) and Razar (“Task Force”), while Disc Two veers more towards jumpy new wave, offering dreamier tracks by the Apartments (“All You Wanted”) and Severed Heads (“Dead Eyes Open”). The collection also features liner notes by Walker and a generous family tree that illustrates how closely related these bands were.” – **Amplifier (US)**