

## **CD Review**

"Birthright"  
James 'Blood' Ulmer

Ulmer made his name alongside Ornette Coleman in the seventies, applying the harmolodic system, of which he was an architect, to a new kind of free jazz and funk. Latterly, he's been going back to his roots. This solo set features his grunting blues vocals over an amplified guitar, with only the slightest of telling diversions into the world of free improvisation. Ulmer sings about his grandfather, and sings about taking his music "back to the church", and never quite lets on that he might have been a punk once, long ago. And yet here, in this raw exquisite blues, is a man rocking not only himself, but his heritage, into a world that is new, trembling with an attitude and a sly approach to harmonisation that is unsettlingly modern.