

In Tune

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LIVING COLOUR,
**“CBGB OMFUG Masters:
The Bowery Collection”**
(MVD Audio) ☆☆☆ — I still remember my freshman year of college when Living Colour was being billed as the next heavy metal superstars. Injecting some much-needed diversity to the lily-white hair metal scene, the guys enjoyed overnight success with the release of their 1988 debut record, “Vivid,” which spawned hits “Cult of Personality,” “Glamour Boys” and “Open Letter to a Landlord.”

But just as quickly as they arrived, Living Colour faded away (thanks in no small part to the emergence of grunge). Three more studio albums followed over the next five years, but none captured the fancy like that remarkable

debut. Guitar wizard Vernon Reid, frontman Corey Glover, bassist Muzz Skillings and drummer Will Calhoun were on the downside of their career when they recorded this set at New York's legendary club on Aug. 19, 2005, but that didn't keep the guys from delivering a spirited performance to a subdued, yet appreciative audience.

The set included the requisite hits, though "Sacred Ground" (14 minutes) and "Open Letter" (10-plus minutes) are stretched out to ridiculous proportions. Living Colour take a shot at President Bush on "Terrorism" and frequently profess their undying love and appreciation of CBGB founder Hilly Kristal. "The Bowery Collection" isn't a great record, but it will offer fans a nostalgic trip down memory lane. (JS)