

# hi-fi+

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The first thing you notice about this box set is its museum quality packaging. Instead of cardboard, the box is constructed of wood and impeccably finished with the highest quality paper stock. It's easily one of the most beautiful record boxes ever. Inside the box an equally gorgeous booklet and photo insert provide lyrics and production notes. How can the audio production live up to such gorgeous packaging, I wondered.

Best known for her audiophile standard *Famous Blue Raincoat*, and her hit duet with Joe Cocker for the soundtrack of *An Officer And A Gentleman*, Warnes has had a remarkable and varied career. She originally released *The Well* on CD in 2001 and retained all rights to the masters, and in 2010 Impex Records released a gold CD of the album. The title tune refers to Jacob's Well, an artisan spring in Texas hill country.

Warnes' singing is captivating on each number, but her rendition of 'You Don't Know Me' with Doyle Bramhall stands comparison with Ray Charles' classic version. The (3) LPs were mastered by Bernie Grundman and the sound is to die for. If my usual scale goes up to 10, I'm giving this an eleven. It's so good sounding it's hard to listen to anything afterwards. A home run that gets my highest recommendation.

-- Dennis Davis

