## Bob Margolin - Chicago Blues (1991)



*1 She's So Pretty 2:57 2 She And The Devil 2:28 3 Steady Rollin' Man 4 sugar speed 5 Something Inside Of Me 6 Dust My Broom 7 Wee Wee Baby 8 Rollin' And Trumblin' 9 Mean Disposition 10 Tribute To Howlin' Wolf 11 not what you said last night 12 Welcome Home 13 Telephone Answering Machine Blues 14 Born In The Wrong Time 15 She And The Devil* Calvin "Fuzz" Jones - Bass Daz Kazanoff - Harmonica, Saxophone Bob Margolin - Guitar, Vocals Pinetop Perkins - Piano Willie "Big Eyes" Smith - Drums

Best known for his association with Muddy Waters in the 1970s, Steady Rollin' Bob Margolin is reunited with three other former Waters sidemen on this inspired solo effort: pianist Pinetop Perkins, bassist Calvin "Fuzzy" Jones, and drummer Willie "Big Eyes" Smith. The title sums it up -- the album may have been recorded in various parts of the South, but the style is pure, unadulterated Chicago blues. A number of gutsy originals are included (most notably, "She and the Devil" and "Born in the Wrong Time") along with such time-honored Muddy Waters classics as "Mean Disposition," "She's So Pretty," and "Rollin' and Tumblin." As enjoyable as the band recordings are, the most inspired offering is the unaccompanied solo number "Born in the Wrong Time." On this under-produced, demo-quality recording, Margolin rants and raves about life in the early '90s and says some gut-level things that desperately needed to be said. ---Alex Henderson, AllMusic Review

There are no musicians better qualified to continue the tradition of Chicago Blues than those who learned directly at the feet of the masters. And Steady Rollin' Bob Margolin learned from the master. From 1973 to 1980, Margolin played guitar in the band of Muddy Waters, touring and recording and learning to play Muddy's music exactly as Muddy wished. The lessons were not polite nor were they gentle, but they most certainly have been enduring.

Margolin was born in Boston in 1949 and raised in nearby Brookline, Massachusetts. Inspired by Chuck Berry, he started playing guitar in 1964 and soon joined a rock band. He followed the path of Berry back to the blues and was especially taken by the music of Muddy Waters.

In August 1973, Margolin went to a Muddy show at Paul's Mall in Boston. Muddy had seen Margolin in opening acts previously and knew that the younger guitarist was trying to learn the "old school" style. Muddy had just lost long-time guitarist Sammy Lawhorn and hired Margolin basically on the spot. Margolin dedicated himself to giving Muddy what he wanted on the bandstand. In fact, Muddy grew to trust Margolin to be the conduit between their style and unfamiliar musicians, bringing Margolin with him on special gigs like the Band's Last Waltz concert, and recording sessions like The Muddy Waters Woodstock Album, when the rest of the band stayed behind. All the while Margolin absorbed – on the stage, in the studio, from the informal lessons and scolding.

In 1980, Muddy's band dissolved over business problems. Margolin formed his own band and applied the lessons he'd learned. He's since recorded as a leader for the Powerhouse, Alligator, Blind Pig, Telarc and Steady Rollin' Records. He maintains a packed touring schedule, produces reissues of Muddy's late-'70s Blue Sky albums for Sony/Legacy and is also a senior writer for Blues Revue magazine. ---blueheavenstudios.com

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