

Ma Rainey - Blame It on the Blues (2019)

Written by bluesever

Tuesday, 26 November 2019 15:48 - Last Updated Saturday, 24 April 2021 10:47

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01. *Blame It on the Blues* 02. *Prove It on Me Blues* 03. *Black Bottom* 04. *Leaving This Morning* 05. *Black Eye Blues* 06. *See See Rider Blues* 07. *Hustlin' Blues* 08. *So Soon This Morning* 09. *Moonshine Blues* 10. *Bo Weavil Blues* 11. *No Easy Rider Blues* 12. *Big Boy Blues* 13. *Misery Blues* 14. *Travelling Blues* 15. *Blues Oh Blues* 16. *Down in the Basement* 17. *Toad Frog Blues* 18. *Stack O'lee Blues* 19. *Wringing and Twisting Blues* 20. *Yonder Comes the Blues* 21. *Shave 'Em Dry* 22. *Jealousy Blues* 23. *Black Cat Hoot Owl Blues* 24. *Ma Rainey's Mystery Blues* 25. *Barrel House Blues* 26. *Hellish Rag* 27. *Georgia Cake Walk*
Buster Bailey Clarinet Shirley Clay Cornet Charlie Dixon Banjo Charlie Green Trombone Coleman Hawkins Sax (Bass) Fletcher Henderson Piano Ma Rainey Primary Artist, Vocals Ike Rodgers Trombone Joe "Fox" Smith Cornet Tampa Red Kazoo, Piano Recorded in New York 1926 and Chicago 1927 & 1928.

Gertrude Pridgett was born into a showbiz family that performed in minstrel shows. She first appeared onstage in 1900, singing and dancing in minstrel and vaudeville stage revues. In 1902 she married the song and dance man William "Pa" Rainey and from then on became known as Ma Rainey. The couple formed a song and dance act that included Blues and popular songs. They toured the country, but primarily the South and became a popular attraction as part of Tolliver's Circus, The Musical Extravaganza and The Rabbit Foot Minstrels, where Rainey befriended a young Bessie Smith. In the 1920s Rainey was a solo star of the T.O.B.A. vaudeville circuit. It was not until 1923 that Ma Rainey signed a recording contract with Paramount. She was billed as the "Mother of the Blues", which wasn't far off the mark. Few historians can point to any real Blues singers before Ma Rainey. She ended up recording 100 songs between 1923 and 1928 on Paramount Records. During that time she was accompanied by many noted jazz musicians such as, Louis Armstrong, Tommy Ladnier, Fletcher Henderson and Coleman Hawkins. She continued working until 1935 and retired to Columbus, Georgia. Ma had been smart with her money and managed to build and operate two theaters; she also owned her own home in Columbus. Ma Rainey died in 1939, of a heart attack.

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