

## Cow Cow Davenport - The Essential Cow Cow Davenport (2002)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 18 October 2012 16:35 - Last Updated Monday, 12 March 2018 21:34

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CD1 1 *Mama Don't Allow No Easy Riders* 2 *w Cow Blues* 3 *We Gonna Rub It* 4 *My Sweet Silver Dollar Mama* 5 *You Rascal You* 6 *State Street Jive* 7 *Chimin' The Blues* 8 *(If You Think You're Gonna Get What I Got) You Got Another Thought Coming To You* 9 *Slow Drag* 10 *Back In The Alley* 11 *Low Down Hound Blues* 12 *Everybody Likes That Thing* 13 *Jeep Boogie* 14 *Atlanta Rag* 15 *That'll Get It* 16 *Gotta Girl For Every Day Of The Week* 17 *I've Been Hoodooed* 18 *Texas Shout* CD2 1 *Chimes Blues* 2 *Cow Cow Blues* 3 *Jim Crow Blues* 4 *Steamboat Blues* 5 *The Lover And The Beggar* 6 *Mootch Piddle* 7 *Buckwheat Cakes* 8 *Slum Gullion Stomp* 9 *Lighthouse Blues* 10 *Jump Little Jitterbug* 11 *Railroad Blues* 12 *The Mess Is Here* 13 *Rooster Crowin' Blues* 14 *Boogie No. 3* 15 *I Ain't No Ice Man* 16 *I'm Gonna Tell You In Fron So You Won't Feel Hurt Behind* 17 *Don't You Loudmouth Me* 18 *State Street Blues*

Piano – Cow Cow Davenport Vocals: – Dora Carr (tracks: Disc One, Track 8. Disc Two, Track 2) - Hound Head Henry (tracks: Disc One, Tracks 4, 11. Disc Two Tracks 4, 13) - Ivy Smith (tracks: Disc One, Track 12) - Jim Towel (tracks: Disc One, Track 17, Disc Two, Track 7.) - Sam Theard (tracks: Disc One Tracks 5, 15. Disc Two Tracks 5, 16, 18) - Southern Blues Singers (tracks: Disc Two, Track 9)

Boogie blues and barrelhouse piano legend Charles "Cow Cow" Davenport's recorded legacy filled four CDs when reissued by Document during the '90s, with two volumes devoted to his primary sessions (1925-1945), a third filled with rare, privately recorded acetates from the late '40s, and a separate disc packed with examples of his skills as accompanist for singers of blues and hokum swing. A single album released in 2000 by the Wolf label sampled his career from 1926 through 1938. The best general purpose collection of all, however, is *The Essential Cow Cow Davenport*, a non-chronological, 36-track retrospective brought out on the Classic Blues label in 2002. This double-disc anthology incorporates elements of the Document and Wolf editions, and is highly recommended as an introduction for those who are new to this artist's work as well as a varied celebration for people who know and love their Cow Cow. The most important piano solo of his career, many people have reason to assert, is the "Atlanta Rag," recorded for Gennett in 1929. In addition to this and other solid examples of his archetypal technique, the pianist is heard with vocalists Ivy Smith, Dora Carr, Sam Theard (sometimes

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identified as Sam Tarpley); Hound Head Henry, Jim Towel, and a group identified as the Southern Blues Singers. Note Davenport's cover of Leadbelly's "Jim Crow Blues" with cornet accompaniment by B.T. Wingfield, the periodic participation of guitarist Tampa Red and the presence of Sam Price at the 88s on "Don't You Loudmouth Me," "I Ain't No Ice Man," "Jump Little Jitterbug," "The Mess Is Here," and a couple of other titles from a swinging session that took place in 1938 when Davenport was temporarily unable to negotiate the keyboard and confined himself to singing robustly like Fats Waller. While there are plenty of good reasons to track down Davenport's complete works in chronological order, his entry in the Classic Blues Essential series stands as the ideal choice for anyone who senses the need for a friendly little kick in the butt. ---arwulf arwulf, allmusic.com

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