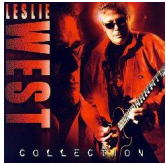


Leslie West - Leslie West Collection (2007)

Written by bluesever

Monday, 03 June 2013 16:21 - Last Updated Wednesday, 31 March 2021 19:16

Leslie West - Leslie West Collection (2007)



1. *Boom Boom* 2. *Don't Start Me Talkin'* 3. *Cross Cut Saw* 4. *Blues Before Sunrise* 5. *Hit the Road Jack* 6. *Crossroads* 7. *House of the Rising Sun* 8. *Baby Please Don't Go* 9. *Sinner's Prayer* 10. *Look at Little Sister* 11. *Whisky Train* 12. *Summertime* Leslie West (vocals, guitar, slide guitar); Leslie West; Kevin Curry (guitar, acoustic guitar); Todd Wolfe (guitar); Brad Russell (guitars); Steve Hunter (dobro); Brian John Mitchell, Brian Mitchell (piano); Art Groom (Hammond b-3 organ); Tim Fahey, Tim Bogert (bass guitar); Andy Doerschuk, Kevin Neal (drums); Aynsley Dunbar (drums).

The blues has informed Leslie West's work since the earliest days of Mountain, but *Collection*, which cherry-picks from his output for the Blues Bureau label (1993-2006), is the most concentrated assemblage yet of the guitarist's covers within the blues idiom. It's easy to imagine West putting plenty of muscle into classics like John Lee Hooker's "Boom Boom," Robert Johnson's "Crossroads," and Muddy Waters' "Baby Please Don't Go," and he does. The latter especially burns, with West unreeling a screaming solo and strangled vocals, ably abetted by drummer Aynsley Dunbar, bassist Tim Bogert, and rhythm guitarist Kevin Curry. But some of the most surprising moments occur where you'd least expect them. The album ends with two songs that couldn't be more opposite in tempo: a rowdy take on Procol Harum's "Whisky Train" and a "Summertime" that puts more soul into the George and Ira Gershwin standard than anyone has since Janis Joplin. And Ray Charles' "Hit the Road Jack," stripped down to a core of West's guitar and Brian Mitchell's piano, and devoid of its familiar jumping rhythm, recasts the song in a mournful mode befitting of its finality. --- Jeff Tamarkin, allmusic.com

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