

Down Home Blues Chicago 1946-1954 CD4 Korea Blues (2005)

Written by bluesever

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01. Jimmy's Boogie - Jimmy Reed 02. Rattlesnake - John Brim 03. Tonight With A Fool - Little Walter 04. Shelby County Blues - Little Johnny Jones 05. Be On Your Merry Way - Albert King 06. Korea Blues - J.B. Lenior 07. (I'm Gonna) Dig Myself A Hole - Robert Lockwood 08. Big Stars Falling - Tampa Red 09. Juniors Wail - Junior Wells 10. Who's Gonna Be Your Sweet Man - Muddy Waters 11. Gary Stomp - John Brim 12. Gonna Buy Me A Telephone - Morris Pejoe 13. Crosstown Blues - Snooky Pryor 14. Murmur Low - Big Boy Spires 15. Roll And Rhumba - Jimmy Reed 16. Out On The Road - Jimmy Rogers 17. So Glad I Found You - Johnny Shines 18. Left Me With A Broken Heart - Jimmy Rogers 19. One Of These Days - Big Boy Spires 20. Green And Lucky Blues - Tampa Red 21. Please Don't Say Goodbye - Essie Sykes 22. Come On Baby Now - Rocky Fuller 23. Bout The Break Of Day - Junior Wells 24. About To Lose My Mind - Big Boy Spires 25. Eagle Rock - Junior Wells

The fourth and final disc in the set begins with a rousing instrumental, Jimmie's Boogie with the harp-huffing Jimmy Reed sounding far more excited and awake in comparison to his later outings, but the true kings of harmonica step forward as well; Little Walter's sympathetic backing in John Brim's Rattlesnake remains as fresh for its creative brilliance as it does tough from the over-amplified distortion. Junior Wells also shows up proving that Walter and Snooky Pryor (among the harp blowers included) had more competition. Eagle Rock dates from 1953 and is a fierce instrumental with Wells joined by Elmore James, Dave and Louis Myers, in addition to S.P. Leary's crisp drumming, and Wells features powerfully on Who's Gonna Be Your Sweet Man from Muddy Waters. Big Walter Horton, a magnificent and criminally under-recorded artist, and a deeply talented harp man joins Tampa Red for the slow Big Stars Falling. Essie Sykes returns with Please Don't Say Goodbye, Jimmy Rogers has a solid pair of Chicago classics in Out On The Road and Left Me With A Broken Heart, and Big Boy Spires hands in Murmur Low plus One Of These Days, both gems that display how the strong Delta influence continued to resonate in Chicago Blues into the 1950s.

As mentioned, there is some overlap with JSP's newly issued set, but there's more than enough

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here to make this an essential item and a wonderful companion. Sound quality and mastering are both first rate, session information lists all known sidemen, and the packaging is simply superb. Paul "Sailor" Vernon deserves kudos for his masterful efforts in compiling a number of rarely heard tracks, and in some cases, tracks that haven't been reissued until now, along with noted classics from a selection of Windy City luminaries, and his finely-written liner notes go into good detail on the wide variety of labels that initially placed these recordings on the market. There is a downside - Boulevard Vintage (Secret Records) recently went through a "reorganization" process - the result has been a very limited distribution of their catalog. This, along with other recently-issued titles under the Boulevard/Secret banner, will not be easily available and may only show up in a very small handful of specialty lists, but this is easily one of the finest Post-war Chicago Blues gatherings among the many seen by collectors in recent memory. --- bigroadblues.com

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