

Cyril Davies and Alex Korner (1957)

Written by bluesever

Monday, 28 April 2014 15:56 - Last Updated Thursday, 26 November 2020 20:48

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1. *Leaving Blues* 3:17 2. *Roundhouse Stomp* 2:54 3. *Rotten Break* 3:50 4. *K.C. Moan* 2:54
5. *Skip To My Lou* 1:54 6. *It's The Same Old Thing* 2:21 7. *Country Jail* 3:10 8. *Streamline Train* 3:08
9. *Alberta* 2:44 10. *Hesitation Blues* 2:30 11. *Ella Speed* 2:58 12. *Good Morning* 2:37
13. *Boll Weevil* 3:26 14. *Doggone My Good Luck Soul* 4:56 15. *Badly Mistreated Man* 3:12
16. *Short Legs Shuffle* 2:37 Alexis Korner: vocal (track3, 7,8,14,15), backing vocal (5), acoustic guitar (3,7,8,12,13,14,15), mandolin (2,5,11) Cyril Davies: vocal (track1, 4,5,6,9,10,11,12,13), 12-stringed guitar (1,2,4,5,8,10,11,12,13,16), harmonica (2,4,6,8,16) Terry Plant: string bass (track2, 5,8,11,12,13) Mike Collins: washboard (track2, 8,11,12,13) The Roundhouse Jug Four (Lisa Turner: vocal/banjo, Jeff Bradford: kazoo/guitar/mandolin, Reg Turner: jug): track 4,6,10,16

Alexis was born in Paris in 1928 and lived in France, Switzerland and North Africa until 1939 when his parents moved to England. In 1949 Alexis joined Chris Barber's Jazz Band, playing first piano and then swiching to guitar.

I first remember Alexis, with Cyril Davies on harmonica (also to be heard on this record), playing to packed houses at Chris Barber's regular weekly blues session at the old Marquee Club in Oxford Street. From the electric atmosphere of those early sessions Alexis and Cyril formed their own band, Blues Incorporated and made the first best selling British blues album, "R&B at the Marquee". After Cyril left the band, Alexis continued to lead Blues Incorporated for a number of years, with varied and often star-studded personnel.

For many years these two British musicians have been studying and playing blues. Their absorption in the idiom has become so complete that now they can think and work naturally within it. That explains why visiting American blues artists like Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee, Muddy Waters and Otis Spann, have been so enthusiastic about their playing. Sonny

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Terry, in particular, is a great admirer of Cyril Davies. Whenever he and Brownie McGhee are in London they go regularly to the Roundhouse, the public house at the corner of Brewer and Wardour Streets where the Alexis Korner group performs every Thursday night. And they go to listen, not to play. ---Bob Hall, cyrildavies.com

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