

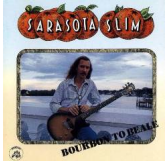
## Sarasota Slim - Bourbon To Beale (1991)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 04 March 2015 16:47 -

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Side One 1. *Bourbon to Beale* 2. *Tin Pan Alley* 3. *Things Ain't Going Right* 4. *Light My Fuse*  
5. *Siesta Salsa* Side Two 1. *Mistakes In The Game of Love* 2. *Cryin' For My*  
*Baby* 3. *Go Underground* 4. *I've Got Friends* 5. *Last Night* 6. *Diving Duck* 7. *Party All Night*  
Gene Hardage (Sarasota Slim) - Dobro, Guitar (Rhythm), Slide Guitar, Vocals Dennis  
McCarthy - Drums (Snare) Dean Germain – Organ, Piano Lucky Peterson – Piano (3) Samuel  
Alexander Mudd – Bass Gregory Oravec – Bass (1,5,11) T.C. Carr – Harmonica Blind Willie  
James – Vocals (3,12)

From the heart of Miami to the soul of Chicago runs a road that Sarasota Slim grew up within sight of. It is the same road, coincidentally, that Dickie Betts sang he was born on in Ramblin'Man. Although modern life has left behind this means of linking cultures, Highway 41 figuratively connects today's breed of blues players from the South and the North in much the same way Highway 61 carried the music of an earlier generation down to New Orleans and back up again through Memphis to St. Louis. And yes, Sarasota Slim has taken Highway 41 south many a time ... to play Miami's historic Tobacco Road. But these days his sights are aimed more toward Chicago.

Sarasota Slim fronts a three piece powerhouse with a small arsenal of blues styles ranging from the simplistic strength of the Delta to the electric big city sound with a seemingly endless variation of leads obtainable from his dobro, slide, and electric guitars. The band's pure blues repertoire is complimented by his vocal talents that allow for a change from grit and growl to slow, smooth, blue eyed soul. Sarasota Slim's performances exemplify an American art form, with its roots in the South, adapting to contemporary tastes without abandoning tradition.

As a skinny teenager trying to play guitar, Sarasota Slim's influences were typical of the American interest in blues based rock during the late sixties and early seventies. While probably

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it was attending some of the first Florida performances of the Allman Brothers, Johnny Winter, and Freddie King that proved his blues beacon. Lots of determination and several years later a local harp hotshot, Rock Bottom, helped affirm his destiny by suggesting that a guy who played guitar like that couldn't call himself Gene Hardage anymore. And having had Greg Allman sit in with him a couple of times since then only reiterated his belief that blues has been his road to follow ... but a more likely explanation of this modern bluesboy's story in that Highway 41 was singing Sarasota Slim a tune each time he went down it. ---taringa.net

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