

The Piano Blues Vol. 6 - 'Take Your Big Legs Off' Walter Roland 1933-1935 (1978)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 20 August 2015 16:02 -

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- 1 –*Jolly Jivers Piano Stomp* Piano – Walter Roland Voice [Speech], Percussion [Tapping]
– Sonny Scott
- 2 –*Walter Roland Early This Morning ('Bout
Break Of Day)* Vocals, Piano – Walter
Roland
- 3 –*Lucille Bogan
Changed Ways Blues*
Piano – Walter Roland Vocals – Lucille Bogan
- 4 –*Walter Roland Back Door Blues*
Vocals, Piano – Walter Roland
- 5 –*Walter Roland Big Mama*
Vocals, Piano – Walter Roland
- 6 –*Walter Roland Red Cross Blues*
Vocals, Piano – Walter Roland
- 7 –*Lucille Bogan B.D. Woman's Blues*
Piano – Walter Roland Vocals – Lucille Bogan
- 8 –*Jolly Jivers Jookit Jookit*
Piano – Walter Roland Voice [Speech] – Sonny Scott
- 9 –*Walter Roland House Lady Blues*
Vocals, Piano – Walter Roland
- 10 –*Walter Roland Every Morning Blues*
Vocals, Piano – Walter Roland
- 11 –*Walter Roland Collector Man Blues*
Vocals, Piano – Walter Roland
- 12 –*Lucille Bogan Down In Boogie Alley*
Piano – Walter Roland Vocals – Lucille Bogan
- 13 –*Jolly Jivers Watch Gonna Do*
Vocals – Lucille Bogan, Sonny Scott Vocals, Piano – Walter Roland
- 14 –*Walter Roland Bad Dream Blues*
Vocals, Piano – Walter Roland
- 15 –*Lucille Bogan Stew Meat Blues*
Piano – Walter Roland Vocals – Lucille Bogan
- 16 –*Jolly Jivers Hungry Man's Scuffle*
Piano – Walter Roland Voice [Speech] – Lucille Bogan Voice [Speech], Percussion [Tapping]
– Sonny Scott

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Despite a relatively prolific recording career which yielded upwards of 40 solo sides in addition to a series of celebrated collaborations with vocalist Lucille Bogan, pianist/singer Walter Roland remains one of the blues' most elusive and mysterious figures. Likely born in or around Birmingham, AL, circa 1900, he first emerged on the city's blues circuit during the 1920s, presumably running in the same circles as the equally enigmatic pianist Jabbo Williams; a skilled, versatile pianist whose repertoire ran the gamut from slow, gut-wrenching blues to exuberant boogie-woogies, Roland was also a persuasive vocalist and even a fine guitarist. He went to New York City three times between 1933 and 1935 to record for ARC; during this same period he also accompanied Bogan (by now calling herself Bessie Jackson), additionally recording with Sonny Scott and Josh White. After 1935, however, Roland seems to have dropped off the face of the earth -- his subsequent activities and ultimate fate remain unknown. ---Jason Ankeny, Roi

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