

Juke Boy Bonner - Going Back To The Country (1968)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 06 April 2017 14:41 - Last Updated Thursday, 18 March 2021 20:06

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A1 Going Back To The Country A2 Sad, Sad Sound A3 She Turns Me On A4 Hard Luck A5 Trying To Be Contented A6 Working With Juke Boy B1 Life Is A Nightmare B2 It's Time To Make A Change B3 Jumpin' At The Zydeco B4 My Blues B5 Stay Off Lyons Avenue B6 I'm Getting Tired Juke Boy Bonner - Guitar, Harmonica, Vocals

Part of a stellar run of '60s recordings cut in his native Texas, Going Back to the Country was the first of Juke Boy Bonner's three particularly fine dates for the Arhoolie label. Accompanying himself on electric guitar and harmonica, Bonner reels off a set of originals that range from dusky slow blues ("Sad, Sad Sound") to stomping up-tempo sides ("Stay Off Lyons Avenue"). Bonner shows the influence of both Jimmy Reed and fellow Texan Lightnin' Hopkins in his approach, but he always delivers inimitable work, thanks to a sophisticated lyrical bent (Bonner wrote poetry, too) and a beat tailor-made for the many juke joints where he cut his teeth and got his name. A solid sampling from Bonner's prime. ---Stephen Cook, AllMusic Review

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