Junior Wells - Come On In This House (1997)

1. What My Momma Told Me/That's All Right [4:31]
2. Why Are People Like That? [3:51]
3. Trust My Baby [5:01]
4. Million Years Blues [5:11]
5. Give Me One Reason [5:00]
6. Ships On The Ocean [5:27]
7. She Wants To Sell My Monkey [4:32]
8. So Glad You're Mine [5:48]
9. Mystery Train [7:01]
10. I'm Gonna Move To Kansas City [3:39]
11. King Fish Blues [5:18]
12. You Better Watch Yourself [3:47]
13. Come On In This House [5:54]
14. The Goat [3:47]

Junior Wells (vocals, harmonica); Alvin Youngblood Hart (vocals, steel guitar, National guitar, dobro); Bob Margolin (acoustic guitar, electric guitar); Tab Benoit (acoustic guitar); John Mooney (electric guitar, slide guitar); Sonny Landreth (slide guitar, steel guitar, National guitar); Derek Trucks (slide guitar); Corey Harris (steel guitar, National guitar); Jon Cleary (piano); Bob Sunda (acoustic bass, 6-string bass); Herman V. Ernest III (drums).

Junior Wells' penchant for clowning around sometimes conflicts with his craftsmanship, but he's all business on Come on in This House, his most unadulterated blues record since his highly acclaimed Hoodoo Man Blues of more than 30 years vintage. This is what has come to be known as an "unplugged" session -- that is, predominately, although not exclusively, acoustic instrumentation. Producer John Snyder's concept was threefold: to team Wells with some of the era's top younger traditional blues guitarists -- Corey Harris, Alvin Youngblood Hart, Sonny Landreth, Bob Margolin, and John Mooney; to have those musicians, in various combinations, accompany Wells on a variety of slide guitars; and to concentrate on vintage Chicago and Delta blues from the repertoires of Rice Miller, Little Walter, Tampa Red, Arthur Crudup, and Wells

himself. The result is a virtual slide-guitar mini-fest and a demonstration of the timeless appeal of classic blues done well. Wells' vocals are deep and manly; his harp playing is high-pitched, like a child's pleading. A surprising highlight is the only contemporary tune on the disc, Tracy Chapman's "Give Me One Reason." New Orleans drummer Herman Ernest III, who appears on 11 of the 14 cuts, does a masterful job laying down understated rhythmic grooves. ---Steve Hoffman, allmusic.com

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