

Peter Green - The Anthology (2008)

Written by bluesever

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CD 1 01. *Evil Woman Blues with John Mayall* 02. *The Stumble with John Mayall's Bluesbreakers* 03. *Sitting In The Rain with John Mayall's Bluesbreakers* 04. *The World Keep On Turning with Fleetwood Mac* 05. *The Supernatural with John Mayall's Bluesbreakers* 06. *Looking For Somebody with Fleetwood Mac* 07. *Long Grey Mare (feat. Bob Brunning) with Fleetwood Mac* 08. *Stop Messin' Around with Fleetwood Mac* 09. *Train Is Coming with Eddie Boyd & His Blues Band* 10. *Greeny with John Mayall's Bluesbreakers* 11. *Soul Dressing with Peter B's Looners* 12. *I Loved Another Woman with Fleetwood Mac* 13. *No Place To Go with Fleetwood Mac* 14. *You Don't Love Me with John Mayall's Bluesbreakers* 15. *Lazy Poker Blues with Fleetwood Mac* 16. *Merry Go Round With Fleetwood Mac* 17. *Trying So Hard To Forget with Duster Bennett* 18. *Ramblin' Pony with Fleetwood Mac* 19. *Drifting with Fleetwood Mac*

CD 2 01. *Black Magic Woman with Fleetwood Mac* 02. *Albatross with Fleetwood Mac* 03. *Ain't Nobody's Business with Otis Spann* 04. *Someday Baby with Otis Spann* 05. *Watch Out with Fleetwood Mac (Blues Jam At Chess)* 06. *Ooh Baby with Fleetwood Mac (Blues Jam At Chess)* 07. *Horton's Boogie Woogie – Take One with Walter Horton, Otis Spann & S.P. Leary* 08. *Love That Burns with Fleetwood Mac* 09. *First Train Home with Fleetwood Mac* 10. *Need Your Love So Bad with Fleetwood Mac* 11. *Don't Goof With The Spook with Peter Bardens* 12. *The Answer with Peter Bardens* 13. *Homage To The God Of Light with Peter Bardens* 14. *Oh Well Part 1 and Part 2 with Fleetwood Mac*

CD 3 01. *Man Of The World with Fleetwood Mac* 02. *Before The Beginning with Fleetwood Mac* 03. *Momma Don'tcha Cry - solo* 04. *Underway with Fleetwood Mac* 05. *Rattlesnake Shake with Fleetwood Mac* 06. *It's Gonna Be Me Peter Green - solo* 07. *White Sky (love that evil woman) with Fleetwood Mac* 08. *The Green Manalishi with The Two Prong Crown and Fleetwood Mac* 09. *Show-biz Blues with Fleetwood Mac* 10. *In The Skies - solo* 11. *Like A Hot Tomato - solo* 12. *Whatcha Gonna Do? - solo* 13. *Carry My Love - solo* 14. *Corners Of My Mind - solo* 15. *Hidden Depth (feat. Zoot Money) - solo*

CD 4 01. *Big Change Is Gonna Come with Splinter Group* 02. *I'm A Steady Rollin' Man (feat. Otis Rush) with Nigel Watson & Splinter Group* 03. *It Takes Time with Splinter Group* 04. *Don't Walk Away with Splinter Group* 05. *Heart Of Stone with Splinter Group* 06. *Love In Vain Blues with Nigel Watson & Splinter Group* 07. *From Four Until Late (feat. Dr John) with Nigel Watson & Splinter Group* 08. *I'm Ready For You with Splinter Group* 09. *Cruel Contradictions with Dick Heckstall-Smith* 10. *Me And The Devil Blues with Nigel Watson & Splinter Group* 11. *Cross Road Blues (feat. Buddy Guy) with Nigel Watson & Splinter Group* 12. *Dead Shrimp Blues (feat. Hubert Sumlin) with Nigel Watson & Splinter Group* 13. *Travelling Riverside Blues (feat.*

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Joe Louis Walker & Honey Boy Edwards) with Nigel Watson & Splinter Group 14. Time Keeps Slipping Away with Splinter Group 15. Look Out For Yourself with Splinter Group 16. Albatross with Chris Coco

Some Peter Green fans might be put off by this 64-song/four-CD collection, owing to the fact that they are likely to already own a significant chunk of what's here (especially the Fleetwood Mac material). (And in fairness, there apparently isn't a lot of -- or any -- unreleased material to draw on from Green's classic period with the band). But this reviewer had to spring for this four-and-a-half hour showcase of his work, and for one major reason -- vitality. Green's virtuosity is a given, and his taste and his insights into blues and what can be done with it -- while still leaving it as blues -- are well known to anyone who's heard his work. But what the makers have done here is to truly assemble his finest, most energetic and inspired work across over 35 years and well over four hours' listening time, into a collection that's greater than the sum of its parts -- in that regard, this set rivals the Eric Clapton Crossroads retrospective, except that doing this set took a bit more courage, as Green hasn't gotten nearly the publicity for his musicianship that Clapton has for his across the last four decades. The first two discs and the first half of the third contain a track list that, distilled slightly more, could be a strong contender for a "best of Fleetwood Mac" in their pre-pop incarnation, 23 tracks that, thanks to some ambitious cross-licensing, combine the group's Blue Horizon and Reprise catalog material into a comprehensive whole, and the makers have even included one cut off of Green's post-Mac End of the Game solo album. Green's earlier work with John Mayall's Bluesbreakers is represented, if not quite so thoroughly, and his two distinct periods working with Pete Bardens, under his own name and earlier as part of Peter B's Looners, is offered, along with material done with Duster Bennett and Otis Spann. The quality of the playing (and singing) speaks for itself, but the producers have also assembled the material in not quite strict chronological order -- "Soul Dressing" with Peter B's Looners is right in the middle of a disc that includes work with Mayall, Duster Bennett, Otis Spann, and early Fleetwood Mac -- so that there's a lot of variety in the listening. The sounds range from Mississippi Delta and electric Chicago blues to prog rock-ish and psychedelic pieces, and into R&B-based material, acoustic tracks placed just right in the middle of electric sides, and all manner of variation. The fourth disc covers the highlights of Green's solo career, and while the tendency of some would be to dismiss it or, at least, regard it as more of an appendix to his classic years, it turns out to be as vital as the rest of the set -- whatever personal demons Green had to overcome to get to the point represented here, it will be plain to anyone that he brought as much energy and finely tuned musical insights to his post-1971 career as he did to his work with his early bands. In other words, for anyone who truly loves the blues, Green's solo work with the Splinter Group (and some other contexts), represented on Disc Four, is every bit as worthwhile as his early stuff. And that -- and the killer sound, and the excellent annotation -- more than makes up for any repetition that might be entailed in buying this set. For longtime fans it's still essential, and for anyone who's ever wondered what the big deal was about Peter Green, or the "other" Fleetwood Mac, or even British blues, it's a great place to start, and might just be a revelation.

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(And it will also be a good introduction to the work of Pete Bardens, Dick Heckstall-Smith, Zoot Money, et al.). ---Bruce Eder, Rovi

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