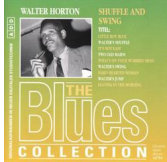


Walter Horton - The Blues Collection Vol.69 – Shuffle and Swing

Written by bluesever

Friday, 30 October 2009 12:47 - Last Updated Wednesday, 17 July 2013 13:34

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01. *Walter Horton - Walter's Shuffle (3:36)* 02. *Walter Horton - Little Boy Blue (4:54)* 03. *Walter Horton - It's Not Easy (4:48)* 04. *Walter Horton - Two Old Maids (4:25)* 05. *Walter Horton - What's on Your Worried Mind? (7:49)* 06. *Walter Horton - Walter's Swing (7:57)* 07. *Walter Horton - Hard Headed Woman (3:58)* 08. *Walter Horton - Walter's Jump (2:09)* 09. *Walter Horton - Leaving in the Morning (3:13)*

"When Big Walter played the blues fell all over you." The words are from record producer Sam Phillips, who recorded Big Walter Horton in the early 50's. But Phillips wasn't the only one who felt that way. Indeed everywhere Big Walter played, his music was so emotional, so creative and so subtle that people simply couldn't forget him.

Born in 1917 in Mississippi, Big Walter was playing professionally by the age of 12 when he recorded with the great Memphis Jug Band. Even then, he had the ability to present his music in a sensitive, soulful way. His youth was spent travelling throughout the Delta, jamming wherever he could - at house parties, fishfries, roadhouses.

When he began working with Sam Phillips in the early 50's, Horton's self-taught playing style played a major role in the rhythm and blues renaissance. His solos could last ten minutes or longer, elaborating on a simple melody with constant invention, subtlety and technique.

Eventually Big Walter left Memphis for Chicago to play with the likes of Jimmy Lunceford, Earl Hines, Johnny Shines, Jimmy Rogers, Otis Rush and other Chicago legends. After that, he began playing what's now known as the Chicago Blues, and shared the stage with one of the greatest of all Chicago bandleaders, Muddy Waters.

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It was then that his friendship with Willie Dixon began. One that would last some 20 years. Also known as "Boss of the Blues Harmonica," Big Walter could make his harmonica purr, roar and cry. And he never strayed from exploring the gut-level feelings the blues are famous for. According to Willie Dixon, Big Walter "was the best blues harmonica player in the world." - Courtesy of M.Hohner, bluesharp.ca

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