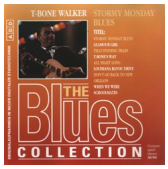
T-Bone Walker - The Blues Collection 16 - Stormy Monday



01. Stormy Monday 02. All Night Long 03. My Patience Is Running Out 04. Glamour Girl 05. T-Bone's Way 06. That Evening Train 07. Louisiana Bayou Drive 08. When We Were Schoolmates 09. Don't Go Back to New Orleans 10. Got to Cross the Deep Blue Sea 11. (You'll Never Find Anyone) To Be a Slave Like Me 12. Left Home When I Was a Kid

It was T-Bone Walker, B.B. King once said, who "really started me to want to play the blues. I can still hear T-Bone in my mind today, from that first record I heard, 'Stormy Monday.' He was the first electric guitar player I heard on record. He made me so that I knew I just had to go out and get an electric guitar."

T-Bone Walker was born Aaron Thibeaux Walker to musical parents on May 28, 1910, in Linden, Texas. When he was two, his family moved to Dallas. Through his church choir and his street-singing stepfather, Marco Washington, he became interested in music. He got his nickname T-Bone at an early age. His mother called him T-Bow, a shortening of his middle name Thibeaux, and it soon became T-Bone. By the time he was 10, T-Bone was accompanying his stepfather at drive-in soft-drink stands. Around the same time, he became the "lead boy" for Blind Lemon Jefferson, who was the most popular and influential country bluesman of the Twenties. From 1920 to 1923, Walker would lead Jefferson down Texas streets.

While still in his teens, Walker, who was self-taught on guitar, banjo and ukulele, toured with a medicine show and with blues singer Ida Cox. In 1929, he began recording acoustic country blues under the name Oak Cliff T-Bone. In 1934, he moved to Los Angeles. He said he began playing amplified guitar shortly thereafter. If that is true, then he was one of the first major guitarists to go electric. And, indeed, he pioneered the electric guitar sound that helped create the blues and thus influence all popular music that followed.

In 1939, Walker joined Les Hite's Cotton Club Orchestra. It was a rough-and-tumble big band whose alumni included Dizzy Gillespie and Lionel Hampton. With the Hite band, Walker perfected his flowing, hornlike guitar licks and his mellow blues vocals. Over the next decade, he worked with both small groups and big bands, on the West Coast and on tours through the Midwest and all the way to New York.

He first recorded as T-Bone Walker in 1942, and the following year he had his biggest hit, "Call It Stormy Monday," which as "Stormy Monday Blues" or just "Stormy Monday" has become one of the most frequently covered blues songs. Walker recorded for Black & White Records, the label that released "Stormy Monday," until 1947. He recorded other classics for the label, including "T-Bone Shuffle" and "West Side Lady."

In 1950, Walker signed with Imperial Records, where he remained until 1954. At Imperial, he cut "The Hustle Is On," "Cold Cold Feeling," "Blue Moon," "Vida Lee" and "Party Girl." He then moved on to Atlantic Records. He recorded sessions in 1955, 1956 and 1959, and they were finally released in 1960 on the album T-Bone Blues.

Walker's career began to slow down during the Sixties. He made an appearance at the American Folk Blues Festival in 1962, performing with Memphis Slim and Willie Dixon, among others. In 1968, he released the album I Want a Little Girl. And, in 1971, he won the Grammy Award for Best Ethic or Traditional Folk Recording for the album Good Feelin'.

In 1973, Walker climaxed his recording career with the double album Very Rare. It was produced by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, and they assembled an all-star cast of jazz veterans and young studio pros to honor the great bluesman.

The following year, Walker became inactive after he was hospitalized with bronchial pneumonia. He died from the disease on March 16, 1975.

T-Bone Walker's single-string solos influenced blues players like B.B. King and such rockers as Eric Clapton and Stevie Ray Vaughan. As Pete Welding wrote, "T-Bone Walker is the fundamental source of the modern urban style of playing and singing the blues. The blues was

different before he came onto the scene, and it hasn't been the same since." ---rockhall.com

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