

## The Ultimate Jazz Archive Vol.67 – Pete Johnson [1944-1947] [2005]

Written by bluesever

Monday, 13 May 2013 14:01 - Last Updated Friday, 19 September 2014 08:26

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*01.Kaycee Feeling 02.Lights Out Mood 03.Dive Bomber 04.Answer To The Boogie 05.Mr. Freddy Blues 06.Zero Hours 07.Bottomland Boogie 08.Rock It Boogie 09.Backroom Blues 10.1946 Stomp 11.Pete's Lonesome Blues 12.Mr. Drums Meets Mr. Piano 13.Mutiny In The Doghouse 14.Pete Kay Boogie 15.Central Avenue Drag 16.66 Stomp 17.Minuet Boogie 18.Yancy Street Boogie 19.Hollywood Boogie 20.Wiley's Boogie*

Pete Johnson was one of the three great boogie-woogie pianists (along with Albert Ammons and Meade Lux Lewis) whose sudden prominence in the late '30s helped make the style very popular. Originally a drummer, Johnson switched to piano in 1922. He was part of the Kansas City scene in the 1920s and '30s, often accompanying singer Big Joe Turner. Producer John Hammond discovered him in 1936 and got him to play at the Famous Door in New York. After taking part in Hammond's 1938 Spirituals to Swing Carnegie Hall concert in 1938, Johnson started recording regularly and appeared on an occasional basis with Ammons and Lewis as the Boogie Woogie Trio. He also backed Turner on some classic records. Johnson recorded often in the 1940s and spent much of 1947-1949 based in Los Angeles. He moved to Buffalo in 1950 and, other than an appearance at the 1958 Newport Jazz Festival, he was in obscurity for much of the decade. A stroke later in 1958 left him partly paralyzed. Johnson made one final appearance at John Hammond's January 1967 Spirituals to Swing concert, playing the right hand on a version of "Roll 'Em Pete" two months before his death. --- Scott Yanow, Rovi

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