

Fats Waller - I Got Rhythm (JazzGreats) [1996]

Written by bluesever

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1. Twelfth Street Rag 2. When Somebody Thinks You're Wonderful 3. Handful Of Keys 4. The Minor Drag 5. Please Take Me Out Of Jail 6. Honeysuckle Rose 7. Believe It, Beloved 8. Big Chief De Sota 9. My Very Good Friend The Milkman 10. I Got Rhythm 11. Blue Turning Grey Over You 12. Ain't Misbehavin' 13. That Old Feeling (vocal – Adelaide Hall) 14. Pent Up In A Penthouse 15. Honey Hush 16. Original E-flat Blues 17. It's A Sin To Tell A Lie 18. Jitterbug Waltz 19. Four Robbers 20. By The Light Of The Silvery Moon 21. That Ain't Right 22. Riffs - James P. Johnson 23. Mr Blue Bird - Putney Dandridge & His Orchestra

Fats Waller was the son of a preacher and learned to play the organ in church with his mother. In 1918 he won a talent contest playing James P. Johnson's Carolina Shout which he learned from watching a pianola play the song. He would later take piano lessons from Johnson. Fats began his recording career in 1922 and made a living playing rent parties, as an organist at movie theatres and as an accompanist for various vaudeville acts. In 1927 he co-wrote a couple of tunes with his old piano teacher James P. Johnson for his show "Keep Shufflin'". Two years later Waller wrote the score for the Broadway hit "Hot Chocolates" with lyrics supplied by his friend Andy Razaf. Fats' most famous song, "Ain't Misbehavin'" was introduced in this show which featured Louis Armstrong. Fats Waller's big break occurred at a party given by George Gershwin in 1934, where he delighted the crowd with his piano playing and singing. An executive of Victor Records, who was at the party was so impressed that he arranged for Fats to record with the company. This arrangement would continue until Waller's death in 1943. Most of the records he made were released under the name of Fats Waller and his Rhythm. The group consisted of around half a dozen musicians who worked with him regularly, including Zutty Singleton. Throughout the 1930s and early 1940s Fats was a star of radio and nightclubs, and toured Europe. He unexpectedly died on board a train near Kansas City, Missouri of pneumonia in 1943. ---redhotjazz.com

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