ABC of the Blues CD37 (2010)

CD 37 – Jimmy Reed & Otis Rush *37-01 Jimmy Reed – Baby What You Want Me to Do 37-02 Jimmy Reed – Found Love 37-03 Jimmy Reed – Big Boss Man 37-04 Jimmy Reed – Hush Hush 37-05 Jimmy Reed – I'm Nervous 37-06 Jimmy Reed – Going by the River Pt. 1 37-07 Jimmy Reed – I Ain't Got You* play *37-08 Jimmy Reed – Come Love 37-09 Jimmy Reed – Meet Me 37-10 Jimmy Reed – I Was So Wrong 37-11 Otis Rush – Checking on My Baby 37-12 Otis Rush – Love That Woman 37-13 Otis Rush – My Baby Is a Good'un 37-14 Otis Rush – All Your Love 37-15 Otis Rush – If You Were Mine 37-16 Otis Rush – Violent Love*
play
37-17 Otis Rush – My Love Will Never Die 37-18 Otis Rush – Three Times a Fool 37-19 Otis Rush – Keep On Loving Me Baby 37-20 Otis Rush – It Takes Time

Mathis James "Jimmy" Reed (September 6, 1925 - August 29, 1976) was an American blues singer. His lazy, slack-jawed singing, piercing harmonica and hypnotic guitar patterns were one of the blues most easily identifiable sounds in the 1950s and 1960s.

Jimmy Reed was born on September 6, 1925, in Dunleith, Mississippi. He was a blues singer and songwriter who played the guitar and harmonica. When he sang, he would slur his words. He produced a series of hits in the 50's that made him the most successful blues singer of the era. Reed sang in church and played the guitar with his friend Eddie Taylor. He left school in 1939 in search of work. He found a job farming around Duncan and Meltonia, Mississippi.Jackie Myers, SHS

However, between 1943 and 1944 he left the south to head to Chicago to find a job because there were more job opportunities available there due to the war. He was drafted into U.S. Navy

while there. In 1945 he was discharged and returned home to Mississippi briefly before once more traveling to the Chicago area. While working in the steel mills, Reed spent his leisure time with a friend named Willie Joe Duncan, who played the one-string guitar, or Diddley-bow. He also re-established contact with Eddie Taylor, who had moved north to try his luck. The two played together; Reed on guitar, harp, and vocals, and Taylor on guitar.

Jimmy finally got the break he had been hoping for in 1953 when he secured a recording contract with VeeJay Records. Finally, he got his first hit in 1955 called “You Don’t Have To Go.” From then on, his success was incredible. “You Don’t Have to Go,” was followed by “Ain’t That Lovin’ You Baby,” “You Got Me Dizzy,” “Honest I Do,” “Baby What Do You Want Me to Do,” “Big Boss Man,” and “Bright Lights, Big City.” Much of his success can be credited to his friend Eddie Taylor, who played on most of his sessions, and his wife, Mama Reed, who wrote many of his songs and even sat behind him in the studio reciting his lyrics into his forgetful ear as he sang. His hits appealed to blacks and whites. Many of his blues songs were even adopted by white R&B groups during the early 60’s. He was the first of the Chicago electric bluesmen to break through to the pop/rock market. Reed had fourteen hits for Vee Jay on the R&B charts between 1955 and 1966.

Reed was an epileptic and this fact, plus his fascination for the bottle, constantly undermined his work. In the early 60’s he visited Europe, but it was obvious that he was not well. Reed often appeared on stage drunk. Jimmy Reed died on August 29, 1976 in Oakland California, because of respiratory failure. He was buried in Chicago. He was inducted into the Blues Foundation’s Hall of Fame in 1980 and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1991. Steve Miller, The Rolling Stones, Pretty Things, and Grateful Dead acknowledge a considerable debt to him. Jimmy Reed was an important figure who influenced many artists. ---last.fm

Otis Rush is maybe the greatest guitar king ever to make Chicago blues. He is also well known for his electrifying voice and for being one of the first baritones to reach popularity in the blues industry. Rush uses his great voice to deliver his songs with plenty of experience and pure emotion.

Otis Rush was born one of seven children in Philadelphia, Mississippi, on April 29, 1934. As a child, he wanted a lot of attention from his mother when he was younger. Rush worked in the fields to help his mother in his younger days. Otis, along with his other brothers and sisters, had

to support each other without the help from a father figure.

Rush moved to Chicago in 1948, after learning to play harmonica and the guitar, which he played upside down and left-handed. It was here that he found out that he could play, create, and write songs for himself. By 1954 he had begun to play the guitar in earnest, inspired first by the rugged Delta blues of Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf and then by the recordings of B.B and Albert King. Rush gained enough respect in Chicago blues circles for the composer and bass player Willie Dixon to help him secure a recording contract with Cobra Records in 1956.

Rush signed with Cobra Recordings. He released his first single "Can't Quit You Baby", which became number nine on the top-ten list. (www.Blueflamecafe.com) Cobra Recording collapsed so Rush had to go elsewhere. For a time he recorded with Chess Records, Duke Records, Atlantic Records, Capitol Records, and Quicksilver Recording Company.

Although Otis Rush has gone through hard times and situations in his lifetime, he still remains one of the greatest blues artists in the United States. He still performs although for a time he had gone into retirement. Otis Rush has to be one of Mississippi's most talented artists.
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