Little Brother Montgomery – Chicago: The Living Legend (1961)

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A1 Home Again Blues 4:01 A2 Up The Country Blues 4:38 A3 Saturday Night Function 4:57 A4 Michigan Water Blues 3:37 A5 Sweet Daddy (Your Mama's Done Gone Mad) 3:08 B1 Prescription For The Blues 3:42 B2 44 Vicksburg 2:15 B3 Trouble In Mind 3:32 B4 Riverside Boogie 2:32 B5 Oh, Daddy 3:25 B6 Somethin' Keep Worryin' Me Blues 5:34 Banjo – Mike McKendrick (A2 to A5, B5) Clarinet – Bob Gordon (A2 to A4, B3) Cornet – Ted Butterman (A2 to A4, B3, B5, B6) Piano – Little Brother Montgomery Tenor Saxophone – Rufus Brown (A3) Vocals – Elaine McFarland (B5), Little Brother Montgomery (A2, A4, B1, B3, B6)

Chicago: The Living Legends was recorded live at the Birdhouse in Chicago. Much of the record is performed by Montgomery solo, although there's a handful of wonderful cuts that feature him with a small group of traditional jazz musicians. Most of the album is devoted to classic songs from the likes of Duke Ellington and Jelly Roll Morton, yet there are a couple of originals thrown in the mix as well. It's all distinguished by Montgomery's wonderful, laidback performances, which make this a little gem. ---Thomas Owen, Rovi

Louisiana-born pianist-singer Eurreal "Little Brother" Montgomery was one of those rare musicians as adept at playing rhythm 'n' blues as he was at traditional jazz. For this 1961 session in Riverside's Chicago: The Living Legends series, producer Chris Albertson recorded him both as a soloist and with a combo of Windy City traditional jazz veterans. The material includes numbers of his own composing, as well as classics from the pens of Duke Ellington, Irving Berlin, and others. Especially charming are Montgomery's four unaccompanied piano solos. ---concordmusicgroup.com

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