Classic Blues From Bluesville CD3 (2014)

01. Sonny Terry & Brownie McGhee – That's Why I'm Walking – 2:48 02. Alberta Hunter – Chirpin' the Blues – 3:34 03. Lonnie Johnson & Elmer Snowden – Haunted House – 5:01 04. Lightnin' Hopkins – Coffee Blues – 3:40 05. Mercy Dee Walton – Have You Ever Been out in the Country – 3:41 06. Lucille Hegamin – St. Louis Blues – 3:33 07. Reverend Gary Davis – Death Don't Have No Mercy – 4:45 08. Blind Snooks Eaglin – Alberta – 2:36 09. Sidney Maiden – Me and My Chauffeur – 2:40 10. Sunnyland Slim – I'm Prison Bound – 3:28 11. Memphis Willie B. – Worried Man Blues – 3:25 12. Little Brother Montgomery – Santa Fe – 2:39 13. Victoria Spivey – I Got Men All over This Town – 5:05 14. Al Smith & Eddie Davis Quartet – I've Got the Right Kind of Lovin' – 3:26 15. Pink Anderson – Baby I'm Going Away – 2:58 16. Willie Dixon – Sittin' and Cryin' the Blues – 3:18 17. Tampa Red – You Better Let My Gal Alone – 3:26 18. Roosevelt Sykes – Hangover – 3:20 19. Scrapper Blackwell – Little Boy Blue – 3:09 20. Blind Willie McTell – The Dyin' Crapshooter's Blues – 3:04

Bluesville was a subsidiary of Prestige Records, and released many good blues albums over the years. This 3 CD set is a pretty good overview of the kinds of blues the label was recording and releasing. But another 3 CD set could easily be issued because there's so many great blues artists/songs available from that era. The sound is pretty good/good overall--like other sets from the Not Now Music label. And similar to other releases, there's no booklet, only a short essay about the label and a few of the artists.

Most of the blues on this compilation lean toward country blues, with a smattering of more sophisticated blues from people like Willie Dixon, Alberta Hunter, Victoria Spivey, and even Sunnyland Slim. Many of these artists you'll recognize--Lightnin' Hopkins, Memphis Slim, Pink Anderson, Big Joe Williams, Sonny Terry, Brownie and Sonny, Blind Willie McTell, Mercy Dee Walton, and others. Also included are a few female blues performers--Victoria Spivey, Alberta Hunter, Lucille Hegamin, and Mildred Anderson.

These tracks were recorded in the late 1950's/early '60s, when the folk-blues boom was just starting to happen. And as such they rely mostly on acoustic guitar, piano, and mouth harp for accompaniment, along with a small rhythm section. Bluesville was known (in the vinyl LP days) as a label for country/folk/blues and this collection has a number of good/great tracks from many artists. This compilation is a perfect foil to the more electric, post-war collections from the Not Now label. But as I've said before, not having a booklet with at least track/artist/song information is a disservice to many blues fans--especially those who are new to this type of music. But for the low price for so much great music I can't complain too much. And whatever information folks need can easily be found in the many books on blues artists/music, and on the internet. --- Stuart Jefferson, amazon.com

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