

Slim Harpo - Sting It Then (1997)

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01 - Star-Time Announcement 02 - I'm A King Bee 03 - Buzzin' 04 - I Got Love If You Want It 05 - You Know I Love You 06 - Lottie Mo 07 - Everybody Needs Somebody 08 - Big Boss Man 09 - Hold Me Tenderly 10 - I'll Take Care Of You 11 - Boogie Chillun 12 - Moody Blues 13 - Sugar Coated Love 14 - Star-Time Theme 15 - I'm A King Bee 16 - I Don't Play 17 - I Got Love If You Want It 18 - Little Liza Jane 19 - When The Saints Go Marching In 20 - Rainin' In My Heart
Slim Harpo – harmonica, vocals Rudolph Richard – guitar Sammy K. Brown – drums James P. Johnson & His Orchestra

This CD is one of the most flukey and important live-blues documents you can find, rating right up there with B.B. King's Live at the Regal and the live Piano Red material from 1955. Recorded off the P.A. system at a 1961 show at the Sage Armory in Mobile, Alabama, it captures Slim Harpo in his only live concert document. Harpo's vocals are a little pushed back in the resulting recording, but his harmonica is caught really well (check out the playing and the clarity on the slow blues "You Know I Love You"), as are the guitars of Rudolph Richard and James Johnson, Willie "Tomcat" Parker's sax, and Sammy K. Brown's drums. Luckily, there's not much audience noise, so what we get is a close-up look at how the blues legend sounded on stage, doing classics like "I'm a King Bee," "Got Love if You Wants It," "Rainin' in My Heart" (his then-current hit), and songs like "Big Boss Man" and "Boogie Chillun," made famous by others. If the sound were slightly better, this would rate even higher, but any real fan should own this. (Note: 11 of the 20 tracks have appeared previously in the United States, spread among two Slim Harpo compilations devoted to his work). --- Bruce Eder, Rovi

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