THE
Blues Giants of the 1950s
Twelve Great Legends

Presented by Claus Röhnisch
The R&B Pioneers Series – Volume Five of twelve
**THE Blues Giants of the 1950s**

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**Introduction**

(THE R&B Pioneers Series was originally compiled in 2007 - up to 2011 - and subsequently enhanced and updated up to 2018.)

Twelve Blues Giants are presented here with basic information on each and everyone. Some of your favorite blues performers may be missing. Several of the important Rhythm & Blues artists of the 1950s can be tagged Blues Performers - the great thrushes come to mind - Dinah Washington, Ruth Brown, LaVern Baker, and Etta James. Several other important artists like Lightnin' Hopkins, Ike Turner, Jimmy McCracklin, Johnny "Guitar" Watson, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown (who possibly would have been #13 in my book), Jimmy Rogers, and Junior Wells need mention. The early 1960s stars Buddy Guy, Slim Harpo, Lightnin' Slim, Junior Parker, Freddy King, Albert King, and Otis Rush are also strong candidates. The Rock 'n' Roll giants Fats Domino, Little Richard, Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, and Lloyd Price are favorites of many blues fans. The R&B pioneers of the 1940s, who also recorded in the '50s, could be qualified - names like Louis Jordan, Lionel Hampton, Johnny Otis, and Wynonie "Mr. Blues" Harris; and certainly the great pianists Roosevelt "the Honeydripper" Sykes, Champion Jack Dupree, Memphis Slim, et al. The early '50s West-Coast pioneers, Williams, Paul Williams, Jesse Belvin, and Wick, made the blues. The original "soul" greats could qualify - especially Ray Charles, and the successful Bobby "Blue" Bland. Clyde McPhatter, Jesse Belvin, Sam Cooke, Jackie Wilson, James Brown, Joe Tex, Solomon Burke, and yes, even Wilson Pickert have to be nominated. I can also think of lesser famous, but classic and important singers like Richard Berry, Bobby Day, and Young Jessie; and of several of the hard-working, and groundbreaking vocal groups (which are presented in "THE Top Ten Vocal Groups of the Golden '50s"). Several of the above listed performers will get their "share" in the forthcoming presentations of "Ten Sepia Super Stars of Rock 'n' Roll", "Transitions from Rhythm to Soul – Twelve Original Soul Icons", "The True R&B Pioneers", and "Pioneers of the Soul Explosion in the 1960s" (including some of the early 1960s vocal groups of soul, like the Temptations, Impressions, Miracles, Isley Brothers, Four Tops, and the Dells).

Probably some of your absolute favorite "blues" artists will be presented in "Ten Sepia Super Stars of Rock 'n' Roll" ("Rock 'n' Roll" - a rubric which may even be harder to define than "the Blues"). Definitions may alter, depending on who is deciding the task – but the artists presented here are - in the mind of the editor of this work – the definitive twelve most interesting and important Blues Giants of the 1950s (nine of them charter members of the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame; two induced soon after – only Fulsom had to wait for his induction). You will be able to read about four Texas (and Oklahoma / Kansas) rooted pioneers of early jump-oriented blues representing the Big Cities (Los Angeles, San Francisco, Kansas City, Dallas, New Orleans, Cincinnati, and New York City); about the now legendary Delta Southerners of Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana - who became the "Big Four" of Chess' Chicago Bar Blues; and about four Mississippi born singers, who via Memphis, Tennessee (and Gary, Indiana) turned into Blues Icons of different Modern Blues styles – Down Home and Urban (Jackson-MS, Louisiana, Memphis, Detroit, Chicago, Houston, California, and Harlem-NYC). The number of Top 10 R&B Hits are noted below.

Most of the birth (and death data) for the whole series of "The R&B Pioneers" are from the super-book "BLUES – A Regional Experience" by Bob Egle and Eric S. LeBlanc (US 2013).

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**THE Blues Giants of the 1950s** – presented by Claus Röhnisch

Twelve Great Legends in The R&B Pioneers Series

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<td>1946</td>
<td>Muddy Waters</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>10</td>
<td><a href="http://www.muddywaters.com/home.html">http://www.muddywaters.com/home.html</a></td>
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The Great R&B-files Created By Claus Röhnisch

THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

THE GUITAR WIZARD – “the man who invented electric guitar blues”
The Blues Giants of the 1950s

T-BONE WALKER

“T-Bone Walker...” - Texas “territory band” influenced guitarist and blues singer representing the original Los Angeles jazz-blues. A true giant - legendary - and creator of modern blues. Pioneered in developing the electric guitar sound. Innovator of the modern elements of “industrial guitar blues sounds”. Toured with medicine shows - dancing and playing banjo - during the ’20s. Worked with Cab Calloway and Milt Larkin during the ’30s. Worked in Oklahoma and in the ’40s in California, Detroit and Chicago, and settled in Los Angeles. Some of his important backing musicians: Bumps Myers, tenor sax; Willard McDaniel, pno; Oscar Lee Bradley, dms. Was produced by the legendary Ralph Bass (for Bumps Msett). Worked with Cab Calloway and Milt Larkin during the ’30s. Worked with the masters of the ‘50s on and sometimes inactive. The Earl Bradleys. One giant from the ‘50s on and sometimes inactive. The Earl Bradleys. Was produced by the legendary Ralph Bass (for Bumps Msett).

Essential CD: The Complete Capitol/Black & White Recordings (3CD) - Capitol 829379-2 (1995), and

Editor’s choices:
The Complete Capitol/Black & White Recordings (3CD) - Capitol 829379-2 (1995), and

For Collectors:
The Original Source (4CD) - Properbox 38 (90 great early tracks with a 44 page booklet, 2002)
The Chronological T-Bone Walker 1929-1946 - Classics 5007 (2001)
The Complete Recordings of T-Bone Walker 1940-1964 - (6CD) - Mosaic MDE 130 (144 tracks, 1989)

Born: Aaron Tribue Walker, May 28, 1910, Linden, Texas.
Died of pneumonia March 16, 1975, Los Angeles, California.

The Blues Giants of the 1950s

T-BONE WALKER

Reading: Stormy Monday - the T-Bone Walker Story by Helen Oakley

Reading: Stormy Monday - the T-Bone Walker Story by Helen Oakley

First LPS:
Classics In Jazz – Capitol T-370 (1953)
T-Bone Walker Sings The Blues – Imperial LP 9098 (1959)
T-Bone Blues – Atlantic LP 8020 (1959)

T-BONE WALKER, vocals/guitar “LUCKY-SEVEN”
1. Les Hite And His Orchestra – Vocal by T-Bone Walker
(T-Bone only vocal: Frank Pasley, gtr)
- New York (or poss. Los Angeles), ca June 1940 or March 6, 1941:
US-1852-1 T-Bone Blues - Varsity 8391
2. T-Bone Walker, featuring Freddie Slack at the piano
- Hollywood, July 20, 1942:
CAP-55-A Mean Old World - Capitol 10033
3. T-Bone Walker and His Guitar (featuring Lloyd Glenn, pno and Bumps Myers, sax) - Hollywood, September 13, 1947:
BW 637-3 Call It Stormy Monday But Tuesday Is Just As Bad - Black & White 122 (#5, 6w total 1948)
4. (featuring Willard McDaniel, pno)
- Los Angeles, November 13, 1947:
BW 662-2 T-Bone Shuffle - Comet 53 (#7, 4w 1949)
5. T-Bone Walker & His Band (featuring Jim Wynn, sax)
- Los Angeles, April 6, 1950:
IM 178 Travel'In Blues - Imperial 5094
6. T-Bone Walker (featuring Maxwell Davis, sax)
- Los Angeles, December 1951:
IM 388-3 Street Walkin' Woman - Imperial 5022 (1952)
7. (Lloyd Glenn, pno; Billy Hadnott, bs: Oscar Lee Bradley, dms)
- Los Angeles, December 14, 1956:
A 2274 T-Bone Blues – Atlantic LP 8020

R&B Top 10 Hits: (6 of 9 Top 40)
1946: Bobby Sox Baby (Blues) (#3
1948: Call It Stormy Monday But Tuesday Is Just As Bad #5
1948: Long Skirt Baby Blues #10
1948: I'm Waiting For Your Call #8
1949: West Side Baby #2
1949: T-Bone Shuffle #7

Essential CD: The Ultimate Collection 1929-56 – Acrobat SCFCD 7503 (2014) featuring 129 tracks including all Atlantic
Blues Masters: The Very Best of... - Rhino R2 79894 (2000)

More Essential Songs:
1940: T-Bone Blues (with Les Hite)
1940: Mean World (with Freddie Slack)
1944: I'm Still In Love With You
1945: T-Bone Boogie
1946: I'm In An Awful Mood
1947: T-Bone Jumps Again (instr)
1948: That's Better For Me
1949: Hyphen Women Blues
1949: Plain Ole Down Home Blues
1949: I Wish You Were Mine (LP 83)
1949: I Want A Little Girl
1950: Strollin' With Bones (instr)
1950: Travelin' Blues
1951: Welcome Blues
1951: Cold Cold Feeling
1951: I Got The Blues Again
1952: Street Walkin' Woman
1952: Blue Mood
1953: My Baby Is Now On My Mind
1954: Bye Bye Baby
1954: Pony Tail
1954: Struggling Blues
1955: Papa Ain't Salty
1956: T-Bone Blues (Atlantic)
1957: Evenin'
1959: Two Bones And A Pick (instr)
1966: Takes A Lot Of Know-How
1968: Goin' To Funky Town (instr)

Reading: Stormy Monday - the T-Bone Walker Story by Helen Oakley

Dance (Ga Capo, 1987)
T-BONE WALKER – REPRESENTATIVE RECORDS 1929 – 1959

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<td>Black &amp; White</td>
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<td>You Don’t Understand</td>
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<td>Imperial</td>
<td>Cold Cold Feeling</td>
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<td>T-Bone Walker</td>
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T-Bone Walker - his Chicago, and his Capitol, Black & White, and Comet singles -

T-Bone's singles for Black & White, Comet and Capitol were all recorded in Los Angeles. One record was made for Capitol (Hollywood) July 20, 1942. The first sessions for Black & White (owned by Paul Reiner in New York) were done in September 1946, and one in December. On September 13, 1947 (four songs) T-Bone recorded his famous "Call It Stormy Monday" and the rest were also recorded for Black & White in Los Angeles (with Ralph Bass the producer). Soon Reiner bought another New York company, Comet Records. Capitol acquired all of T-Bone's recordings (including the Comet ones) around mid-late 1948, re-releasing several of his Black & White recordings (and also issued some songs which hadn't been released from the mastodont November and December 1947 Black & White sessions). Dave Dexter was the architect for the releases of 1949. T-Bone was contracted to Imperial in early 1950 and made his first recordings for them on April 6 (he hadn't recorded after December 1947). Maxwell Davis soon took care of the musical direction (and prob also had a producer roll). Hadnott and Bradley stayed with T-Bone. Here are the famous 'Black & White' singles (plus his early Chicago recordings): T-Bone Walker, voltige on all tracks, except -1 which is an instrumental. Before his Black & White period T-Bone recorded in Chicago in 1944 and 1945 for Rhumbogigia (Charlie Glenn's label), Mercury and Old Swingmaster (some of these recordings were later reissued on Imperial LP). Several recordings did appear only on later LPs.

T-Bone Walker featuring Freddie Slack at the piano with bass and drums
Capitol (1942) 15053 I Got A Break Baby – Mean Old World (also issued on Capitol/Oriole 10023)
T-Bone Walker with Max Young's Orchestra (rec in Chicago)
Rhumbogia (issued 1945/46)
4000 Sail On Boogie – I'm Still In Love With You (also issued on M33-1)
4002 T-Bone Boogie – Evening
4003 You Don't Love Me Blues – Mean Old World Blues
Mercury (issued 1946)
8516 My Baby Left Me – Come Back To Me Baby
Old Swingmaster (issued 1949)
11 She Is Going To Ruin Me (Fast Woman on Imperial later)
My Baby Left Me
T-Bone Walker and His Guitar (with Jack McVea & All Stars -2) or (with Al Killian Quintet -3)
Black & White (issued 1946/1947)
110 Bobby Six Blues (#6) – I'm Gonna Find My Baby -2
111 No Worry Blues – Don't Leave Me Baby –2
115 It's A Lotedown Dirty Deal – Don't Give Me The Runaround -3
121 I'm In An Awful Mood – Hard Rain Blues-3
122 I Know Your Wig Is Gone – Call It Stormy Monday But Tuesday Is Just As Bad (#5)
123 Long Skirt Baby Blues (#10) – Goodbye Blues
125 T-Bone Jumps Again #1 - I Want A Little Girl
126 I'm Waiting For Your Call #6 – That's Better For Me
127 Midnight Blues (#11) – Plain Old Down Home Blues
Comet (issued 1948)
750 Lonesome Woman Blues – West Side Baby (#8)
751 Inspiration Blues – I'm Still In Love With You
752 Description Blues (#13) – That Old Feeling Is Gone
753 T-Bone Shuffle (#7) – First Love Blues
Capitol (issued 1949-1950)
7012 Vacation Blues – Prison Blues
7014 Call It Stormy Monday – I Know Your Wig Is Gone
7023 Long Lost Lover Blues – You're My Best Poker Hand
7025 Hey! Women Blues - Born To Be No Good
7042 T-Bone Shuffle – First Love Blues
7055 West Side Baby – I'm Still In Love With You
799 On Your Way Blues – Go Back To The One You Love (#15)
944 She's My Old Time Used To Be – Too Much Trouble Blues

The musicians in L.A.
July 20, 1942
Freddie Slack (piano); Jud De Naut (bass); Dave Coleman (drums)
September 30, 1946
with Jack McVea (ts) & All Stars: Joe "Red" Kelly, p; Tommy Cahn, p; Frank Clarke, b; Rabon Tarrant
December 1946
with Al Killian (tp) Quintet: Jack McVea, Ts; Kahn, Clarke, Tarrant
September 13, 1947
Teddy Buckner, p; Bumps Myers, t; Lloyd Glenn, p; Arthur Edward, b; Oscar Lee Bradley, d
November and December 1947
The mastodont sessions featured Buckner (later George Ormond, and one session Jack Traiono, p; Myers, Willard McDaniel, p; Bly Hadnott (or subbing John Davis, b; Bradley, d.

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THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

T-Bone Walker’s original vinyl LPs 1953-1969

Capitol H/T 370 "Classics In Jazz" (1953), Capitol T 1958 "Classic Indigo Vocals and Guitar" (1963, rec in the 1940s),
Music for Pleasure (UK) MFP 1043 "The Blues of T-Bone Walker" (1965, Capitol ‘40’s)

Imperial LP 9098 “T-Bone Walker Sings The Blues” (1959), Imperial LP 9116 “Singing The Blues” (1960), Imperial LP 9146 ‘I Get So Weary’ (1961),
Imperial (France) LP 1561451 “Hot Leftovers” (1985, Imperial ‘50s)

Atlantic LP 8020 “T-Bone Blues” (1959), BluesWay BLS-6008 “Stormy Monday Blues” (late 1967), BluesWay BLS-6014 “Funky Town” (1968)

BluesWay BLS-6058 “Dirty Mistreater” (1973, compiled from the earlier BluesWay), Brunswick LP BL 754126 “The Truth” (1968, rec in Texas in 1966),
Delmark LP D-603 “I Want A Little Girl” (1968, rec in Paris, November 1968),
Image top right Bluesline LP9004 "Every Day I Have The Blues" (1969, rec in New York in August that year.)
SOME OF T-BONE’S LATEST CDs

Right: 5CD-set on Acrobat (issued 2014). Left: 2CD-set on Jasmine issued 2015 covering 52 Imperial and Atlantic recordings, and an interesting 19 track CD on Warner’s Last Favourites.

2CD-set on NotNow, 4CD-set on RealGone; one on Blue Note - and three nice Hoodoo issues.
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

T-BONE’s (nostalgia) GALLERY pt 1

T-Bone’s Bio - from Rock Hall of Fame

Inductee: Aaron Thibeaux Walker aka T-Bone Walker (vocals, guitar; born May 28, 1910, died March 16, 1975)

It was T-Bone Walker, B.B. King once said, who “really started me to want to play the blues. I can still hear T-Bone in my mind today, from that first record I heard, ‘Stormy Monday.’” He was the first electric guitar player I heard on record. He made me so that I knew I just had to go out and get an electric guitar.” T-Bone Walker was born Aaron Thibeaux Walker to musical parents on May 28, 1910, in Linden, Texas. When he was two, his family moved to Dallas. Through his church choir and his street singing stepfather, Marco Washington, he became interested in music. He got his nickname T-Bone at an early age. His mother called him T-Bow, a shortening of his middle name Thibeaux, and it soon became T-Bone. By the time he was 10, T-Bone was accompanying his stepfather at drive-in soft drink stands. Around the same time, he became the “lead boy” for Blind Lemon Jefferson, who was the most popular and influential country bluesman of the Twenties. From 1903 to 1923, Walker would lead Jefferson down Texas streets.

While still in his teens, Walker, who was self-taught on guitar, banjo and ukulele, toured with a medicine show and with blues singer Ida Cox. In 1929, he began recording acoustic country blues under the name Oak Cliff T-Bone. In 1934, he moved to Los Angeles. He said he began playing amplified guitar shortly thereafter. If that is true, then he was one of the first major guitarists to go electric. And, indeed, he pioneered the electric guitar sound that helped create the blues and thus influenced all popular music that followed. In 1939, Walker joined Los Angeles Cotton Club Orchestra. It was a rough-and-tumble big band whose alumni included Dizzy Gillespie and Lionel Hampton. With the Hite band, Walker perfected his flowing, hornlike guitar licks and his mellow blues vocals. Over the next decade, he worked with both small groups and big bands, on the West Coast and on tours through the Midwest and all the way to New York.

He first recorded as T-Bone Walker in 1942, editor’s note: no earlier, but he made the great “Mean Old World” for Capitol that year, and the following year editor’s note: - no it was in 1947, he had his biggest hit, “Call It Stormy Monday,” which as “Stormy Monday Blues” or just “Stormy Monday” editor’s note: he usual Earl Hines/Billy Eckstine mix-up/ has become one of the most frequently covered blues songs. Walker recorded for Black & White Records, the label that released “Stormy Monday,” until 1947. He recorded other classics for the label, including “T-Bone Shuffle” and “West Side Lady.” In 1950, Walker signed with Imperial Records, where he remained until 1954. At Imperial, he cut “The Hustle Is On,” “Cold Cold Feeling,” “Blue Moon,” “Vida Lee” and “Party Girl.” He then moved on to Atlantic Records. He recorded sessions in 1955, 1956 and 1959, and they were finally released in 1960 on the album T-Bone Blues. Walker’s career began to slow down during the Sixties. He made an appearance at the American Folk Blues Festival in 1962, performing with Memphis Slim and Willie Dixon, among others. In 1968, he released the album I Want a Little Girl. And, in 1971, he won the Grammy Award for Best Ethnic or Traditional Folk Recording for the album Good Feelin’.

In 1973, Walker climaxed his recording career with the double album Very Rare. It was produced by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, and they assembled an all-star cast of jazz veterans and young studio pros to honor the great bluesman. The following year, Walker became inacitve after he was hospitalized with bronchial pneumonia. He died from the disease on March 16, 1975. T-Bone Walker’s single-string solos influenced blues players like B.B. King and such rockers as Eric Clapton and Stevie Ray Vaughan. As Pete Welding wrote: “T-Bone Walker is the fundamental source of the modern urban style of playing and singing the blues. The blues was different before he came onto the scene, and it hasn’t been the same since.”
T-BONE’s (nostalgia) GALLERY pt 2

T-Bone Walker and Lottie the Body performing.
SOME FINE CD-BOXES  (in order of artist presentations)
BIG JOE – THE BOSS OF THE BLUES

Inserted: Acrobat Music 2-set CD ADDCD3275 “The Singles Collection 1550-60” (55 tracks)
featuring A-and B-sides on all Atlantic sides and selected singles pre-1952.
"The Boss of the Blues" - Jazz/blues singer - the original and ultimate Blues Shouter with roots in Kansas City and an important link between R&B and R&R. Moved to L.A. in 1941. Recorded in Kansas, New York, L.A., Texas, and N.O. Made his debut with pianist Pete Johnson, with whom he worked during several terms, and later worked with several band constellations. Was on the decline when Atlantic’s Herb Abramson (who had produced him for National) “picked him up” and re-introduced him with Harry Van Walls billed at the piano. Worked with KC veteran Jesse Stone, arranger/coach for Atlantic Records. Several mid ’50s records billed as Joe Turner & His Blues Kings (using legendary N.O., Chicago and N.Y. jazz and blues musicians). Mostly billed as Joe Turner on singles, but later on as “Big” Joe Turner on several LPs. Member of the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame in 1983, and inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987.


First recordings: Live at Carnegie Hall, NYC December 23, 1938. It’s All Right Baby (aka Roll ‘Em Pete) / Low Down Dog

First LPs:
- The Boss Of The Blues Sings Kansas City Jazz – Atlantic LP 1234 (1956)
- Joe Turner Rock and Roll – Atlantic LP 8005 (1957)
- Blues’ll Make You Happy – Savoy MG 14012 (1958)

R&B Top 10 Hits: (17 of 20 Top 40)
- 1944 The Chill Is On #3
- 1945 My Gal’s A Jockey #6
- 1950 Still In The Dark #8
- 1951 Chains Of Love #2
- 1952 You Know I Love You #1
- 1953 Honey Hush #1 for 8w
- 1953 T.V. Mama #6
- 1954 Shake, Rattle And Roll #1 for 3w
- 1954 Well All Right #9
- 1954 Flip, Flop And Fly #2
- 1955 Hide And Seek #3
- 1956 Morning, Noon And Night #8
- 1956 The Chicken & The Hawk #7
- 1956 Corrine Corrina #2
- 1956 Lipstick Powder And Paint #8

Essential CD: The Very Best of… Rhino R2 72968 (1998) or Big, Bad & Blue-The Big Joe Turner Anthology (3CD) - Rhino R2 71550 (1994) or The Definitive Blues Collection (2CD) - Rhino 122748 (2007)

For Collectors:
- The Essential ‘40s Collection (2CD) – Acrobat ADDCD3069 (2011)
- and Rocks – Bear Family BCD 17215AR (2011)

Reading:

JOE TURNER, vocals “BIG-SIX”

1. Joe Turner with Bill Moore’s Lucky Seven Band
   - Los Angeles, January 23, 1946:
     - NSC 142 My Gal’s A Jockey - National 4002 (#6, 1w total)
   - Joe Turner with Van “Piano Man” Walls
     - New York, January 20, 1952:
       - A 787 Sweet Sixteen - Atlantic 960 (#3, 8w)
     - Joe Turner and his Band (featuring Pluma Davis, tbn and Kathy Thomas, pno) - New Orleans, May 12, 1953:
       - A 1073 Honey Hush - Atlantic 1001 (#1 for 8w, 25w)
     - Joe Turner and His Blues Kings (featuring Edward Frank, pno)
       - New Orleans, December 3, 1953:
         - A 1220 You Know I Love You - Atlantic 1026 (1954)
         - A 1299 Shake, Rattle And Roll - Atlantic 1026 (#1 for 3w, 32w)
       - (with Howard Biggs, arr)
         - New York, January 28, 1955:
           - A 1425 Hide And Seek - Atlantic 1069 (#3, 12w)
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

The Very Best of Big Joe Turner – part I: the 1940s (plus)

His Classic Early Years - with locations and dates of recording.


Los Angeles, September 8, 1941, Chicago October 30, 1944, New York February 2, 1945.


New Orleans April 1950 (remixed/edited Imperial recording, issued on Bayou in 1953).
Houston August 24, 1950 (“Still In The Dark” on Freedom1531 - Joe Turner and Orchestra.)
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

The Very Best of Big Joe Turner – part II: the 1950s (plus)

The Atlantic Years - with locations and dates of recording.

1951
Two songs recorded in New York April 19, 1951; New York January 20, 1952; New Orleans May 12, 1953.

1953
Chicago October 7, 1953; Two songs recorded in New Orleans December 3, 1953 ("Married Woman" - flip of "Well All Right"
- and "You Know I love You" - flip of "Shake, Rattle And Roll" The plug sides were recorded in New York February 15, 1954.

1954
New York February 15, 1954 (which also was the recording date of "In The Evenin' When The Sun Goes Down" on EP 565;
the last two recorded in New York January 28, 1955.

1956
New York February 24, 1956; New York November 20, 1956 (issued February 1957); New York January 22, 1958;
"Red Sails In The Sunset" re-recording 1983 ("Blues Train" LP) with Roomful of Blues (originally recorded by Joe in 1957).
JOE TURNER ON ATLANTIC RECORDS LPs

Here are the original Atlantic LPs by Joe Turner. The 12/1300-series was the Jazz series and 8000-series the Pop.


8033 Big Joe Is Here (1959), 1332 Big Joe Rides Again (1959), 8081 The Best of Joe Turner (1963)

Atco SD 33-376 His Greatest Recordings (1971), SD-8812 The Boss of the Blues (1981, reissue of 1234), Atlantic 81663 Rhythm & Blues Years (2LP 1986)

Atlantic 81752 Greatest Hits (1967), Rhino R2 71550 Big Bad & Blue / The Big Joe Turner Anthology (3CD-set 1994), Rhino 122748 The Definitive Blues Collection (2CD 2007). Note that Turner was not labelled Big Joe until the later years on Atlantic.
THE BLUES GIANTS OF THE 1950S

JOE TURNER: THREE FINE ATLANTIC COMPILATIONS

Atlantic LP 8005: Rock and Roll - Joe Turner (1951)
Tracks: Joe Turner with Van “Piano Man” Walls & His Orchestra
brass, reeds; Harry Van Walls; rhythm section
NYC, April 19, 1951
A 600 The Chill Is On *
A 603 Chains Of Love
NYC, January 20, 1952
Tall Jordan, tp; Budd Johnson, as; Freddie Mitchell, ts; Ernest “Pinky” Williams, bs; Harry Van Walls, p; Rector Bailey, g; Leonard Gaskin; Connie Kay, d
A 787 Sweet Sixteen
960 (#3)
Joe Morris, tp; Salvador Davis, tb; Freddie Mitchell, ts; William Burchett, Ernest “Pinky” Williams, as; Dave McRae, bs; Harry Van Walls; p; Shebs Hobbie, b, d.
NYC, September 23, 1952
A 906 Still In Love (With You)
982
A Joe Turner & His Band
Frank Mitchell, Tommy Shelton, tp; Pluma Davis, bs; Auguste “Dimeo” Dupont, as; Warren Hebrard, bs; poss. unknown barsax; Kathy Thomas, p; Edgar Blanchard, d; John Fernandez, b; Alonzo Stewart, d; Joe Turner, prod.
NYC, May 13, 1953
A 1073 Honey Hush
1001 (#1)
A 1074 Crawdad Hole
1001
A Joe Turner & His Blues Kings
Sonny Cohn, tp; Harlan Ford or John Avant, tb; Grady Jackson, Joe Tillman, tss; McKinley Easton, bs; Little Johnny Jones, pno; Elmore James, g; Jimmy Richardson, b; Saunders, d.
Chicago, October 7, 1953
A 1126 Ti-Ri-Lee
1053
A 1127 Oke-Mo-She-She-Pop
1016
A 1128 TV Mama
1016 (#5)
There are alternate recordings of “A1126 (recorded January 28, 1955 – #1425) and A1127 (recorded May 12, 1955 – #102). Regular mix-ups have been published in several discographies concerning this (maybe even this editor has got it wrong)?
John Girard, tp; Worthy Thomas, bs; Gus Fontenot, as; Joe Tillman, ts; Alvin “Red” Tyler, bs; Edward Frank, p; Lloyd Lambert, b; Oscar Moore, d.
New Orleans, December 3, 1953
A 1220 You Know I Love You
1026
A 1225 Married Woman *
1040
unknown tp; Wilbur DeParis, tb; Sam Taylor, as; Haywood Henry, bs; Harry “Van” Walls (or poss. Jesse Stone) p; Mickey Baker, g; Lloyd Trotman, p; Connie Kay, d; prob. Jesse Stone, Ahmet Erpteugn and Jerry Wexler, vcl.
NYC, May 15, 1954
A 1209 Shake, Rattle And Roll
1026 (#1)
A 1211 In The Evening (when the sun goes down) *
EP 565
A 1212 Well All Right -1
1040 (#9)

Atlantic LP 8023: Rockin’ The Blues (12/58)
Tracks: Joe Turner with Van “Piano Man” Walls & His Orchestra
brass, reeds; Harry Van Walls; rhythm section
Joe Turner, vocal on all tracks; master number and original singles issues noted (all on Atlantic with best position on any of the Billboard’s R&B Charts).
A Joe Turner with Van “Piano Man” Walls & His Orchestra
brass, reeds; Harry Van Walls; p; rhythm section
NYC, April 19, 1951
A 600 The Chill Is On *
949 (#9)
A 603 Chains Of Love
939 (#2)
Tall Jordan, tp; Budd Johnson, as; Freddie Mitchell, ts; Ernest “Pinky” Williams, bs; Harry Van Walls, p; Rector Bailey, g; Leonard Gaskin; Connie Kay, d
NYC, January 20, 1952
A 787 Sweet Sixteen
960 (#3)
Joe Morris, tp; Salvador Davis, tb; Freddie Mitchell, ts; William Burchett, Ernest “Pinky” Williams, as; Dave McRae, bs; Harry Van Walls; p; Shebs Hobbie, b, d.
NYC, September 23, 1952
A 906 Still In Love (With You)...
982
A Joe Turner & His Band
Frank Mitchell, Tommy Shelton, tp; Pluma Davis, bs; Auguste “Dimeo” Dupont, as; Warren Hebrard, bs; poss. unknown barsax; Kathy Thomas, p; Edgar Blanchard, d; John Fernandez, b; Alonzo Stewart, d; Joe Turner, prod.
NYC, May 13, 1953
A 1073 Honey Hush
1001 (#1)
A 1074 Crawdad Hole
1001
A Joe Turner & His Blues Kings
Sonny Cohn, tp; Harlan Ford or John Avant, tb; Grady Jackson, Joe Tillman, tss; McKinley Easton, bs; Little Johnny Jones, pno; Elmore James, g; Jimmy Richardson, b; Saunders, d.
Chicago, October 7, 1953
A 1126 Ti-Ri-Lee
1053
A 1127 Oke-Mo-She-She-Pop
1016
A 1128 TV Mama
1016 (#5)
There are alternate recordings of “A1126 (recorded January 28, 1955 – #1425) and A1127 (recorded May 12, 1955 – #102). Regular mix-ups have been published in several discographies concerning this (maybe even this editor has got it wrong)?
John Girard, tp; Worthy Thomas, bs; Gus Fontenot, as; Joe Tillman, ts; Alvin “Red” Tyler, bs; Edward Frank, p; Lloyd Lambert, b; Oscar Moore, d.
New Orleans, December 3, 1953
A 1220 You Know I Love You
1026
A 1225 Married Woman *
1040
unknown tp; Wilbur DeParis, tb; Sam Taylor, as; Haywood Henry, bs; Harry “Van” Walls (or poss. Jesse Stone) p; Mickey Baker, g; Lloyd Trotman, p; Connie Kay, d; prob. Jesse Stone, Ahmet Erpteugn and Jerry Wexler, vcl.
NYC, May 15, 1954
A 1209 Shake, Rattle And Roll
1026 (#1)
A 1211 In The Evening (when the sun goes down) *
EP 565
A 1212 Well All Right -1
1040 (#9)

Atlantic LP 8001: The Best of Joe Turner (8/63)
Tracks: Joe Turner with Van “Piano Man” Walls & His Orchestra
brass, reeds; Harry Van Walls; rhythm section
June 10, 1954
A Joe Turner & His Blues Kings
unknown brass, reeds, rhythm, vocal chorus -1
NYC, November 20, 1950
A 2219 After Ashile -1
1131
A 2220 Midnight Special Train
1122
A 2221 Red Sails In The Sunset -1
1131
A 2223 Feelin Happy -1
1122
Joe Turner with Choker Campbell’s Orch
Phil Gulleteau, tp; Melvin Juanzo, tb; Choker Campus, as, p; g; b; poss Chick Booth, d.
NYC, May 12, 1957
A 2535 World O’Trouble
1146
A 2536 Love Roller Coaster
1146 (#12)
A 2637 I Need A Girl
1155
Joe Turner with Choker Campbell’s Orch
Phil Gulleteau, tp; Melvin Juanzo, tb; Choker Campus, as, p; g; b; poss Chick Booth, d.
NYC, May 12, 1957
A 2535 World O’Trouble
1146
A 2536 Love Roller Coaster
1146 (#12)
A 2637 I Need A Girl
1155
Joe Turner with Jesse Stone’s Band
Jerome Richardson and Sam Taylor, as; Mike Stoller, p; Allen Hanlon and Mundell Lowe, g; Lloyd Trotman, b; Panama Francis, d; vg
NYC, October 2, 1957
A 2802 Teen Age Letter
1167
Joe Turner with Jesse Stone’s Band
Jerome Richardson and Sam Taylor, as; Mike Stoller, p; Allen Hanlon and Mundell Lowe, g; Lloyd Trotman, b; Panama Francis, d; vg
NYC, October 2, 1957
A 2802 Teen Age Letter
1167
Joe Turner with Howard Biggs’ Orchestra
Mike Chimes, b; Hilton Jefferson, as; King Curtis, ts; Howard Biggs, p; George Barnes and Billy Mure, g; Lloyd Trotman, b; Panama Francis, d; vg
g
NYC, January 22, 1958
A 2930 (We’re Gonna) Jump For Joy -1
1184 (#15)
A 2931 Blues In The Night -2
1184

THE R&B PIONEERS SERIES - VOLUME FIVE OF TWELVE
THE BLUES DISCOGRAPHY, 
THE CLASSIC YEARS 1943-70 
NEW EXPANDED AND REVISED THIRD EDITION

It's the fiftieth anniversary of our trailblazing predecessor Blues Records. This new edition continues the adventure, filling gaps and revising details. The artist roster has been increased and album headings have been added, resulting in about seven times the content of the original. Around 1300 artists are now covered. Slightly changing the format has significantly reduced the page count. The Discography is listed alphabetically by artist and chronologically by session master or matrix numbers. Personnel details, unissued titles and original release details are included. A full cross-referenced accompanying musician's index follows the discography. Softback 775 large format (8.5" X 11") pages. $99 plus shipping.

THE BLUES DISCOGRAPHY 1971-2000
The blues rolled on long after 1970 and kept on rolling to an ever expanding international audience. Finally these later decades are given the same dignity and attention as given to the earlier years with the publication of this second volume. Compiled by Robert Ford over the last 20 years with the help of many contributors and produced by Bob McGrath, this new companion volume seamlessly continues from where The Blues Discography 1943-1970 [the classic years] left off. Continuing the careers of many artists from the first volume as well as introducing lots of new blood. 1190 artists are covered in all, shedding light on the later years leading to the millennium. The same format is used as the classic years volume, alphabetically by artist, (exclusively African American), chronologically by session, listing personnel details plus an LP/CD index. Softback 579 pages (8.5" X 11).
LOWELL FULSON – Tulsa Red
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

LOWELL FULSON


Born: March 31, 1921, Atoka, Oklahoma (moved to Tulsa for a while)  
Died: of kidney failure March 7, 1999 in Long Beach, Calif.  

Essential CDs:  
For collectors:  
The Tramp Years - Ace CDCDH 755 (2000)  
Lowell Fulson 1946 to 1953: The Early Recordings - JSP (4CD BOX) JSPCD7728 (113 tracks - simply great, 2004)  
And Don't Miss the CDs on page 16

Reading:  
The Real Rhythm and Blues by Hugh Gregory (Blandford UK, 1998)

First LPs:  
Lowell Fulson (Early Recordings) – Arhoolie LP R 2003 (1962)  
Soul Lowell Fulson) - Kent LP (1966)  
Every Day I Have The Blues – Ember UK LP SPE 6601 (1967)  
Rare LP: Lowell Fulson (2LP) – Chess 2ACMB-205 (1976)

LOWELL FULSON, vocals/guitar "HI-FIVE"  
1. Lowell Fulson’s Combo (featuring Earl Brown, sax; Lloyd Glenn, pno) - Los Angeles, 1949/50:  
196 Everyday I Have The Blues – SwingTime 196 (#3, 24w total)  
2. Lowell Fulson featuring Lloyd Glenn at the "88"  
- Los Angeles, 1950: A 787 Blue Shadows – SwingTime 226 (#1 for 4w, 22w  
3. Lowell Fulson (featuring David Newman, sax) - Dallas, September 27, 1954:  
U 771 Reconsider Baby – Checker 804 (#3, 15w  
4. Lowell Fulson (featuring Maxwell Davis, arr) - Los Angeles, 1965:  
431 Black Nights - Kent 431 (#11, 12w in 1966)  
5. Los Angeles, September 1966:  
456 Tramp – Kent 456 (#5, 13w in 1967)

R&B Top 10 Hits: (9 of 14 Top 40)  
1948 Three O’Clock Blues #6  
1950 Everyday I Have The Blues #3  
1950 Blue Shadows #1 for 4w  
1950 Low Society Blues (instr with Lloyd Glenn) #8  
1950 Old Time Shuffle Blues (inset Lloyd Glenn Th’ Fulsom Unit) #3  
1950 Lonesome Christmas #7  
1951 I’m A Night Owl #10  
1954 Reconsider Baby #3  
1967 Tramp (Lowell Fulson) #5

Some Other Goodies:  
1947 San Francisco Blues (as Fulson Trio)  
1952 Guitar Shuffle (instr)  
1953 There is A Time For Everything  
1955 Loving You  
1956 Trouble Trouble  
1956 Tollin’ Bells  
1958 That’s All Right  
1960 I Want To Know  
1960 Blue Shadows (Checker Rec.)  
1964 Baby  
1964 Everyday It Rains  
1965 Black Nights  
1967 Year Of 29  
1967 Tomorrow  
1969 Sleeper  
1969 Price For Love  
1970 My Baby  
1970 The Ol’ Blues Singer
A COUPLE OF LOWELL’S LATEST CDs

- **LOWELL FULSON • TROUBLE, TROUBLE**
  - THE DEFINITIVE EARLY YEARS COLLECTION

- **LOWELL FULSON**
  - **THE BLUES COME ROLLIN’ IN**
    - The 1952-1962 Recordings
      - Including:
        - Coming Home, Trouble, Trouble
        - Blue Shadows, That’s All Right
        - So Many Tears
        - The Blues Come Rollin’ In
        - I Believe I’ll Die On Top
        - Love, Groove Dina
        - I Wanna Make Love To You
        - And Many More!

THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

SOME BIOGRAPHIES  (Sonny Boy, Wolf, Little Walter, and Jimmy Reed - see presentations)
THE MIGHTY-MIGHTY MAN – Good Rockin’ Brown

Inserted: A 30-track Hoodoo CD (263588, 2018) featuring his whole career.
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

RB – TWO GREAT ACE CDs

Don’t miss these great super-sounding CDs, containing great acetates from Roy’s early DeLuxe recordings (several alternates and even more unissued ones). Spanning from July 1947 to June 1950, and covering every session he made. A total of 48 tracks. Produced by Tony Rounce.

CDCHD 1072 with recordings from 1947 (issued 2005), and CDTOP 1423 with recordings from 1949-1950 (issued 2015)

RB – His Chrono Jasmine 2-set issued 2018

JASMCD 3098 (produced by Bob Fisher)

The 59 tracks CD features every one of his chart hits, hits that made him one of the most influential R&B stars of the 1950s. The CD-pak has the original versions of "Mighty, Mighty Man" and "Fanny Brown" (1128 in 1947) although listed as the re-recorded 3128 (1949).
ROY BROWN

"The Mighty Mighty Man" - "Good Rockin' Brown" - New Orleans-based singer (sometimes pianist) and originator of the "crying blues" - later regarded as the main influence for Rhythm & Soul. He formed a gospel group as a teenager and became a professional boxer. Started secular singing after the war, working especially in Texas (he landed in Houston at age 14), and became one of the most important originators of the New Orleans R&B sound with his "Mighty, Mighty Men" and "taught" the crying to such greats as B.B. King, Clyde McPhatter, Jackie Wilson, Little Richard, Elvis Presley, and many others. Started his hit career on the Braun brothers DeLuxe (who were stationed in New Jersey but made records in New Orleans) which was bought up by Syd Nathan’s King Records in August, 1948 - who reissued all the early DeLuxe tracks, originally in the 1000-series on a new 3000-series - the most famous being remastered versions of Miss Fanny Brown c/w Mighty Mighty Man (originally issued on DeLuxe 1128 in late 1947 and reissued in the new versions on DeLuxe 3128 in early 1949 - these two great recuts are sure improvements and are not on any of Brown's late Rhino, Classics, Collectables or Ace compilations, but can be found on the CD "Hard Luck & Good Rocking""). Wynonie Harris recorded a cover of Brown’s classic "Good Rockin’ Tonight" on King 4210 in Cincinnati on December 28, 1948, which topped the charts in 1948. Nathan also recorded Brown in Cincinnati, Ohio. Roy later also worked in Memphis and moved to California during later years of his "ups & downs" career. Member of Blues the Foundation Hall of Fame in 1981.

Essential CDs:
- Good Rockin’ Man – The Definitive Collection (2CD) - Fantastic Voyage 50 great songs 1947-1960 (2011) or Good Rocking Tonight - The Best of... - Rhino R2 71545 (1994) or Rockin’ At Midnight - The Very Best of... - Collectables COL 2882 (25 chronological tracks) (2004)
- And Don’t Miss the two Ace CDs issued 2005 CDCRH 1072 and 2015 CDCRH 142, containing alternates and original acetates 1947-1950!
- CD for Collectors: Roy Brown and New Orleans R&B (4CD) – JSP 7756 (2005) featuring 50 Roy Brown tracks plus Professor Longhair and Dave Bartholomew

Editor’s choices:
- The CDs cover the complete issued single recordings of Roy between 1947 and 1953 in chronological order (except for the remakes of early 1949 – see above. 5036 & 2889 have same tracks).

For Collectors:

R&B Top 10 Hits: (14 of 16 Top 40)
- 1948 Long About Midnight #1 for 1w
- 1949 Fore Day In The Morning #6
- 1949 Rainy Weather Blues #5
- 1949 Rockin’ At Midnight #2
- 1949 Miss Fanny Brown #8
- 1949 Please Don’t Go #9
- 1949 Boogie At Midnight #3
- 1950 Hard Luck Blues #1 for 3w
- 1950 Love Don’t Love Nobody #2
- 1950 Long About Sundown #8
- 1950 Cadillac Baby #6
- 1951 Big Town #8
- 1952 Bar Room Blues #6
- 1957 Let The Four Winds Blow #5

Worthwhile Classics:
- 1947 Good Rocking Tonight
- 1947 Mighty, Mighty Man
- 1949 Butcher Pete
- 1950 Good Man Blues
- 1951 Beaunicat Blues
- 1952 Good Rockin’ Man
- 1953 Laughing But Crying
- 1953 Travelin’ Man
- 1954 Fannie Brown Got Married
- 1954 Worried Life Blues
- 1960 Rocking All The Time

First LPs:
- Battle of the Blues – Roy Brown / Wynonie Harris – King 607 (1957)
- Sings 24 Hits – King LP 956 (1966)

READINGS:
- King of the Queen City – The Story of King Records by Jon Hartley Fox (US 2009)
- Blues Giants of the 1950s by Peter Guralnick (2005)
- Startin’ A Band – Rhythm And Blues in the 1940s and 1950s edited by Bill C. Bryant (2007)

ROY BROWN, vocals “HI-FIVE”

1. Roy Brown with Bob Ogden & Orch.
   - New Orleans, July 1947:
     - D-405 Good Rocking Tonight - DeLuxe 1093 (#13, 1w 1948) / DeLuxe 3093 (#11, 2w 1949) 3w total
   - Roy Brown and his Mighty Mighty Men
     (featuring Bateman Ranksins, sax) - New Orleans, January 1949:
     - D-881 Rockin’ At Midnight - DeLuxe 3212 (#2, 1w)
   - New Orleans, January 1949, remake from Oct 1947 DeLuxe 1128:
     - D-882-2 Miss Fanny Brown - DeLuxe 3128 (#8, 1w total)
   - (featuring the Griffin brothers, pno and bn)
     - Cincinnati, April 19, 1950:
       - D-1513 Hard Luck Blues - DeLuxe 3304 (#1, 1w)
   - (featuring Edgar Blanchard, guit) - Cincinnati, May 15, 1950:
     - D-1516 Love Don’t Love Nobody - DeLuxe 3306 (#2, 1w)


Roy Brown's DeLuxe session dates with repr. Recordings
Roy made some unissued recordings for Regal in New Orleans with Paul Gayten.

New Orleans:
(All early recordings made at Cosimo Matassa’s J&M Studio).
Sept 1947: - Special Lesson No 1 & Roy Brown Boogie (original version (w. Walter Daniels, pno; Bill Jones, gtr)
Oct 1947: - Mighty, Mighty Man (w. Earl M Barnes and his orchestra, featuring Leroy Rankins, ts and Bill Jones, gtr)
Oct 1947: - Miss Fanny Brown (And His Mighty-Mighty Men)
Jan 1949: - remakes of Miss Fanny Brown/Mighty, Mighty Man plus Rockin’ At Midnight
March 22: - w. members of Lucky Millinder’s orch. (unissued at the time).
ca July 1949: - Please Don’t Go (single version)

Dallas:
Sep 29, 1949: - Boogie At Midnight (w. Johnny Fontenette, sax)
Cincinnati:
Nov 2, 1949: - Butcher Pete (w. Leroy Rankins, sax)
June 15, 1950: - Love Don’t Love Nobody (w Leroy Rankins, sax & Edgar Blanchard, gtr)
June 22-23, 1950: - Bar Room Blues & Double Crossin’ Woman
Jan 16, 1951: - Good Rockin’ Man & Big Town (w Red Prysock)
Sep 27, 1951: - Brown Angel (w Johnny Fontenette)

Note: After this session Roy continued recording directly for King Records in New Orleans, Cincinnati, Los Angeles, Miami up to 1956 when he was contracted to Imperial. Roy went back to King in 1959.

CHICAGO BLUES GREATS

Still available? - Some great compilations issued in later years (all originally issued during the new millennium, several recently).

- Hip-O-Select (SCD) B0012646-02 (126 tracks)

Elmore James – King of the slide guitar – The Complete Trumpet, Chief & Fire Sessions – Charly (3CD) SNAJ722CD (63 tracks)
Jimmy Reed – The essential boss man – The Very Best of the Vee-Jay Years, 1953-1966 – Charly (3CD) SNAJ728CD (76 tracks)

Sonny Boy Williamson – Down And Out Blues
- Not Now (2CD) NOT2CD356 (32 Trumpet and 16 early Checker)
John Lee Hooker – Testament - Charly (3CD) SNAJ705CD (60 tracks)
I’m John Lee Hooker - Charly SNAP130CD (15 tracks)

Jasmine Records – British Public domain 2CD-series.
http://www.jasmine-records.co.uk/index.html
Issued in 2010 and 2011 – probably much more to come.
Featuring “The singles, As and Bs”. Each set has 50 tracks (Muddy 54, Wolf 46)

The R&B Pioneers Series - Volume Five of twelve
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

Available CDs by ROY BROWN  (as of amazon.co.uk  May 4, 2015)
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

…. and then Some More (including CDs and some LPs)
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

JOHN LEE HOOKER – (and a 2016 "public domain on Union Square)
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

JOHN LEE HOOKER - ONE RECORD PER YEAR 1948 – 1967

1948
1949
1950
1951

1952
1953
1954
1955

1956
1957
1958
1959

1960
1961
1962
1963

1964
1965
1966
1967
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

JOHN LEE HOOKER


Hooker left Mississippi and moved to Memphis in circa 1933. He soon "hoboed" again - this time he spent a period in Knoxville, Tennessee and arrived in Chicago in circa 1935, singing the blues with working with gospel groups. The years between 1939 and 1943 are unaccounted for (except for a short spell in the army). He started his career with his arrival in Detroit in circa 1943. In the evenings of the mid 1940s John got small jobs at the clubs around Hastings Street (like Forest Inn and Club Basin). Legend has it: T-Bone Walker handed Johnny Lee the first electric guitar, as John became T-Bone's "kid" when T-Bone was working in Detroit during 1946-48. "Johnny Lee" (as most of his friends called him) invented his own "unique" style (non-rhyming, sometimes out-of-rhythm) and was introduced in 1948 to Bernie Besman (of Sensation Records at Woodward Avenue; and co-owner with John Kaplan of the Pan American Record Co.) by Elmer Barbee. Hooker's original "manager", who "discovered" Hooker playing with his trio at the "Apex" bar on Monroe Street (although "legend" says Besman "discovered" Hooker at Lee Sensation's bar "Russell & Orange" - or at the "Monte Carlo"). Barbee continued to promote Johnnie, after the Besman introduction, for other record labels, mostly recording in Barbee's record shop at 609 Lafayette Street, but the main records of Hooker's up into 1952 were recorded by Bernie Besman at United Sound Studios Inc. at 5840 2nd Blvd. Besman leased several tracks to the BIhari brothers (Modern - of Hollywood) and soon issued others on Sensation. Almost a hundred alternates and variations were "kept in the can" and later issued on album compilations.

After Hooker's success with "Boogie Chillen" (later known as "Boogie Chillen") Hooker started "moonlighting" under different pseudonyms for other Detroit producers, especially for manager Elmer Barbee and for Joe Von Battle in Joe's Record Shop at 3530 Hastings Street. Records were issued as Texas Slim, Birmingham Sam, John Lee Hooker, Johnny Williams, and several other pseudonyms. The first issue was "Black Man Blues" c/w "Stomp Boogie" on King. In 1951 and 1952 JLH cut two sessions direct for Chess Records in Chicago and Detroit - experts still argue if it was Bernie Besman, Joe Von Battle, Elmer Barbee or Leonard Chess who produced the sessions. In between the classic Chess recordings Hooker waxed his biggest hit, "I'm In The Mood" for Besman (still leased to Modern Records) in Detroit on August 7 of 1951. He toured with guitarist Eddie Kirkland especially during 51-53. Besman moved to Los Angeles in mid 1952, and Joe BIhari had to travel to Detroit and Joe Siracuse for further recordings. JLH worked with his own band from 1953 - the Boogie Ramblers in Detroit (including Bob Thurman and sometimes Vernon "Boogie Woogie Red" Harrison; pno; Tom Whitehead, dms; Jimmy Miller, tpt; and Johnny Hooks and later Otis Finch, sax). Hooker's contract with Modern was terminated around mid or late 1955 (Hooker made some Specialty recordings in mid and late 1954, but the Modern recordings continued for a little longer). Hooker signed a contract with Vee-Jay Records around October 1955 and switched recording locations to Chicago (Universal Studios) during 1955 - 1964 (with Jimmy Bracken, Ewart Abner and Calvin Carter producing - later also Al Smith). From 1965 Hooker regularly recorded in New York, due to his new-signed contract with ABC Records after Vee-Jay's bankruptcy (the first couple of albums produced by Bob Thiele). Hooker moved to Oakland, California in 1970 (something he had longed for, and came natural after his separation with his long time wife Maude Mathis). He regularly recorded in Los Angeles and San Francisco during the early '70s - often produced by Ed Michel. His accompanying Coast To Coast Band of the Frisco/L.A. area (with several famous white rock musicians) backed him in the '70s (and variations including his son Robert Hooker, Luther Tucker on guitar and later Deacon Jones on keyboard toured with him during the '80s and '90s). Hooker settled in the San Francisco Bay suburbs during the '90s. The Blue Rose organization from 1989 (making Hooker a rich man during later years); manager Mike Kappus, producer Roy Rogers, artist JH.

Born: August 22, 1912 (or pass 1917) in Tutwiler, Tallahatchie County, south of Clarksdale, Coahoma County, Mississippi. Several other birth dates have been offered (from 1915 - 1923).


First recordings: Elmer Barbee demo recordings June 12, 1948 (unissued); ca August, 1948 Leavein' Chicago and Wednesday Evening Blues (both unissued), plus demos of (When My First Wife Left Me (later re-recorded as Driftin' From Door To Door - Modern 714, issued October 1949). Note: War Is Over and She Was in Chicago below are remakes of the two first.


Hooker's first regular recording session: (Hooker vcl/gtr)

[United Sound Studios, Detroit September 3, 1947]

Bernie Besman, producer; Joe Siracuse, engineer. Recorded under contract with Besman - the first single leased to Modern, issued on November 3, 1948.

B 7003 Sally Mae (aka Sallie Mae) - Modern 627, Crown LP 5353
Sally Mae (alternate) - Crown LP 5157
B 7004 War Is Over (Goodbye California) - (aka Highway Blues or Highway 51) - Specialty LP 2127
See, Ira Baby (alternate of above) - Greene Bottle LP 3130
B 7005 She Was In Chicago (aka Wednesday Evening Blues) - United Artists LP 5512
B 7006 Boogie Chillen' (aka Boogie Chillen) - Modern 627, Crown LP 5157
Henry's Swing Club (alternate of above) - Specialty LP 2127
Johnny Lee's Original Boogie (prob first take) - United Artists LP 127

Same session
B 7007 Drifting From Door To Door - Modern 714, Crown LP 5232
B 7008B Hobo Blues - Modern 663, Crown LP 5157
Long, Long Way From Home (alternate of above) - United Artists LP 127
B 7009 Numbers Blues (aka Playin' The Numbers) - Ace CD CHD 799
She Ain't Good For Nothin' (alternate of above) - Greene Bottle LP 3130
B 70107 Alberta - Specialty LP 2125
7011 Howlin' Wolf (aka A Howlin' Wolf) - Modern 730, Crown LP 5353
7012 Crawling King Snake (aka Crawlin' Kingsnake Blues) - Modern 714, Crown LP 5157
1 Rude My Den (alternate of above) - United Artists LP 127

Note: Drifting... and Hobo Blues may be Barbee recordings from mid 1948 handed over to Besman. When Besman sent his first tapes to Modern in late 1948 he offered the Boogie Chillen session and at least one take of all ten songs above. Some evidence point to the fact that the alternate of Numbers Blues, Well I'd Like To Leave (from ca. December 1949), issued on United Artist LP 127, is actually the alternate of the above and the alternate listed here is from the 1949 session.
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

The Most Essential and Best CDs:

Interesting 2CD compilations (whole career):

1CD-Collections:
The Very Best of... - Rhino R2 71915 (1995)
The Best of JLH 1965 to 1974 - MCAD-10539 (1992)
That’s My Story/The Folk Blues of... – Ace CDCHD 927 (1990)

Editor’s Choice:
Testament – Charly (4CD-set) SNAU 705CD with 60 great Vee-Jay tracks (2001)

For the Collector:
Live at the Café au Go-Go (and Soledad Prison) - Universal MCD 11527 (Bluesway recordings August, 1966 and in 1972) (1996)
Travelin’ (reissue of a 1960 LP) – Collectables CD 7101 (2000)
– also issued on Charly/Charly/Snapper SNAP 145CD with bonus tracks (2003)
Burnin’ (reissue of a 1962 LP) - Collectables CD 7106 (2000)
– also issued on Charly/Charly/Snapper 041CD with bonus tracks (2003)
The Boogie Man – Charly 4CD “Dig-Book” CD DIG 5

First LP:
I’m John Lee Hooker – Vee-Jay 1007 (1959)

Reading:
Boogie Man - The Adventures of John Lee Hooker by Charles Shaar Murray (Viking, 1999; reedited in 2011)
Delta Blues by Ted Gioia (W W Norton, 2008)

The Very Best of the Rest:
1949 Muarang Blues (as Texas Slim)
1950 Wandering Blues (as Johnny Williams)
1950 Give Me Your Phone Number
1950 Huckle Baby
1951 John L’s House Rent Boogie
1951 Leave My Wife Alone (as John Lee Booker)
1951 Just Me And My Telephone
1953 Boogie Pambler
1954 Shufflin’ Blues (as John Lee Booker)
1954 It’s My Own Fault
1954 Half A Stranger
1954 I’m Mad
1955 The Syndicator
1955 Hug And Squeeze (You)
1956 Every Night
1956 Dimples
1956 Baby Lee
1957 I’m So Excited
1957 I See You When You’re Weak
1958 I Love You Honey
1959 Tupelo (Riverside)
1959 Hobo Blues (The Hobo) (VeeJay)
1959 Maudi
1960 I Need Some Money
1960 No Shoes
1961 Teachin’ The Blues
1961 Don’t Turn Me From Your Door
1961 Want Ad Blues
1962 Boom Boom
1962 Frisco Blues (San Francisco)
1963 Birmingham Blues
1963 Don’t Look Back
1964 It Serves Me Right To Suffer
1965 Bottle Up And Go
1966 One Bourbon, One Scotch, One Beer
1967 I’m Bad Like Jesse James
1967 Mr Lucky
1970 Burning Hell (w. Canned Heat)
1970 House Rent Boogie (Blues)
1974 Homework
1986 We’ll Meet Again
1989 The Healer
1997 Frisco Blues (don’t Look Back)

R&B Top 10 Hits:
1949 Boogie Chillen’ #1 for 1w
1949 Hobo Blues #5
1949 Hoogie Boogie #9
1949 Crawling King Snake #6
1951 I’m In The Mood #1 for 4w

The R&B Pioneers Series - Volume Five of twelve

JOHN LEE HOOKER, vocals/guitar “GREAT-EIGHT”
1. John Lee Hooker & His Guitar - Detroit, September 3, 1948: B 7036 Boogie Chillen’ - Modern 627 (#1, total 18w in 1949)
2. John Lee Hooker (featuring Eddie Kirkland, gtr) - Detroit, August 7, 1951: MM 1636 I’m In The Mood - Modern 835 (#1, 15w)
3. (featuring Eddie Taylor, gtr) - Chicago March 17, 1956: 56-445 Dimples - Vee-Jay 205
4. (featuring Sam Jones, bs, Louis Hayes, drm) - New York, February 8, 1960: 321 Gonna Use My Rod - Riverside LP 321
5. (featuring Lefty Bates, gtr) - Chicago, March 1, 1960: 60-1364 No Shoes - Vee-Jay 349 (#2, 2w)
6. (featuring Joe Hunter, pro and Hank Cosby, sax) - Chicago, ca: December 1961: 61-2204 Boom Boom - Vee-Jay 438 (#16, 8w total in 1962)
7. (from last Vee-Jay session) - Chicago, ca mid 1964: 64-4424 It Serves Me Right To Suffer - Vee-Jay 708, 1965
Hooker’s interesting “Real Folk Blues” sessions

**Recorded in Chicago, May 1966 - Ralph Bass, producer; Marshall Chess, supervision**

Featuring Hooker, vcl/gtr; Lafayette Leake, pno/org; Eddie Burns, gtr; unkn, b and tamb; S.P. Leary or poss. Fred Below, dm.

“The Real Folk Blues” Chess LP 1508, issued 1966 – with 9 tracks, several reissues – even one as “More Real Folk Blues”

“More Real Folk Blues - The Missing Album” MCA/Chess CD CHD9329 American and European issues 1991 - 9 new tracks

Ralph Bass did not record in stereo - Image of the European issue inserted bottom left.

These two albums reissued on one CD titled “The Complete Chess Folk Blues Sessions” in Europe on MCA MCD-18335 in 1991 and “The Real Folk Blues / More Real Folk Blues” in US on MCA/Chess 112821 in 2002.

**Tracks:**

I’m In The Mood / Let’s Go Out Tonight / Peace Lovin’ Man / Stella Mae / I Put My Trust In You / You Know, I Know / I’ll Never Trust Your Love Again / One Bourbon, One Scotch, One Beer / The Waterfront // Lead Me (You Can Lead Me Baby) / Noboyd Knows / Deep Blue Sea / I Can’t Quit You Baby / Mustang And GTO / House Rent Blues / Catfish Blues / Want Ad Blues / This Land Is Nobody’s Land

**New 10CD Box “Public Domain” on Documents (issued in Nov 2015)**
Images number four are examples of European issues. Both Crown, United and Kent issued most of Hooker’s LPs also listed in fake “Stereo.”

*The Blues* on Crown CLP-5157 (1960); United/Superior US-7725 (ca 1970) and its alternate pressing; plus a French issue on America.


*Folk Blues* on Crown CLP-5295 (1962); two versions of United/Superior US-7729 (ca 1971); and the French issues on BYG and Goody.

*The Great* on Crown CLP-5353 (1963); “The Great Blues Sounds of” on United/Superior US-7731 (ca 1971) and its United cover; plus French America LP 6077

Hooker’s two Kent LPs (a Bihari label): “Original Folk Blues” on Kent LP 5025 (KST 525) (1967); the United US 7746 (ca 1972); plus Kent LP “The Greatest Hits of” on Kent KST 559 (1971), and its reissue on United 7769 (in ca 1974) – the latter two are reissues of Crown’s “The Blues.”
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

12 Blues Giants – and some of their famous early “side-men” - part 1

T-Bone with Freddie Slack, “Stormy Monday-lineup”, Lloyd “Mr. 88” Glenn, and Maxwell Davis.


Fulson with Lloyd “Mr. 88” Glenn, David “Fathead” Newman, and Maxwell Davis.


Muddy with Sunnyland Slim, Jimmy Rogers, Otis Spann, James Cotton, Pat Hare, plus Francis Clay and James “Pee Wee” Madison (no images).
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

12 Blues Giants – and some of their famous early “side-men” - part 2


Wolf with Willie Dixon, Willie Johnson, Ike Turner, Hubert Sumlin, and Henry Gray

Elmo with Little Johnny Jones, J. T. Brown, and Johnny “Big Moose” Walker

Little Walter with Louis and David Meyers, Fred Below, Robert Jr. Lockwood, and Luther Tucker

Jimmy Reed with Eddie Taylor, Lefty Bates, Earl Phillips, and Mary “Mama” Reed

B.B. with Johnny Ace, Earl Forest; Bill Harvey (no image); Willard McDaniel; Maxwell Davis; Willard Lee, Johnny Board, and Bobby forte (no images), plus Sonny Freeman

The R&B Pioneers Series - Volume Five of twelve 37
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

GIANTS OF CHICAGO BLUES – early LPs on Chess and Vee-Jay, plus

Next page: note there are several more Vee-Jay LPs by Reed and Hooker after 1963, although the Chess LPs feature more vintage recordings.

Chess LP 1427, Chess/Checker LP 1428 (1957), Chess LP 1434 (1958), Vee-Jay LP 1004 (August 1958);
Checker LP 1437 (early 1959), Vee-Jay LPs 1007 (1959), 1008 (September 1959), Chess LP 1444 (early 1960);
Vee-Jay LP 1022, SR 1023 (1960), Chess LPs 1449 (1960), Vee-Jay LP 1025 (1961);
Vee-Jay LP 1033, 2SR 1035 (1961), SR 1039 (1961 reissue of one half of SR 1035), SR 1043 (early 1962);

Images right: The European issues of Chess 1444 (“Muddy Waters sings the songs of Big Bill Broonzy”), and 1503 (“Sonny Boy Williamson In Memoriam”).
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s
Real Gone Music’s Hooker Box

“Burning Hell” (1964 – not 1958) Riverside
“I’m John Lee Hooker” (1959) Vee-Jay
“Travelin’” (1960) Vee-Jay
“That’s My Story” (1960) Riverside
“Sings Blues” (late 1960 – not 1961; reissued 1968) King
“The Folklore Of John Lee Hooker” (1961) Vee-Jay
“Folk Blues” (1962) Crown
Note: Sadly the Real Gone boxes lack bi/disco information.
# THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

## Twelve Great Blues Singers – Twelve Favorite Blues Songs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T-BONE WALKER and His Guitar</th>
<th>JOE TURNER</th>
<th>LOWELL FULSON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>That’s Better For Me</td>
<td>New Oh-Wee Baby Blues (Wee Baby Blues)</td>
<td>Loving You</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black &amp; White 126 (issued 1948)</td>
<td>Joe Turner, vcl;</td>
<td>Checker 812 (#14 May 1955)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-Bone Walker, vcl/gtr; with orchestra lead by George Dorendoff (tp); Bumps Myers, tensax; Willard McDaniel, pro; Billy Hadnott, bs; Oscar Lee Bradley, dms.</td>
<td>feat Ike Perkins, pro; Red Saunders, dms</td>
<td>Lowell Fulsom, vcl/gtr; feat Earl Brown, altsax: Otis Spann, pro; Willie Dixon, bs; prob Fred Below, dms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROY BROWN with his Mighty-Mighty Men</th>
<th>JOHN LEE HOOKER</th>
<th>MUDDY WATERS with Rhythm Accompaniment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rockin’ At Midnight</td>
<td>Hug And Squeeze</td>
<td>I Can’t Be Satisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeLuxe 312 (#2 March 1949)</td>
<td>Modern 966 (issued August 1955)</td>
<td>Aristocrat 1305 (issued 1948)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roy Brown, vcl; feat Leroy “Batman” Rankins, tensax</td>
<td>John Lee Hooker, vcl/gtr; feat Otis Finch, tensax; Bob Thurman, pro; Tom Whitehead, dms</td>
<td>Muddy Waters, vcl/gtr; Big Crawford, bs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“SONNY BOY” WILLIAMSON</th>
<th>HOWLING WOLF</th>
<th>ELMORE JAMES and his &quot;Broomdusters&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Nights By Myself</td>
<td>Brown Skin Woman</td>
<td>Standing At The Crossroads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson, MS November 2, 1954</td>
<td>(aka Chocolate Drop)</td>
<td>Los Angeles c. August 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ace 511 (late 1955 purchased from Trumpet)</td>
<td>West Memphis, AR February 12, 1952</td>
<td>Flair 1057 (issued late 1954)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonny Boy Williamson, vcl/hca; Dave Campbell, pro; J.W. Turner, gr; Johnny Morgan, bs; Junior Blackman, dms</td>
<td>from Crown CLP 5240 (1961)</td>
<td>Emore James, vcl/gtr; James Parr, gr; Maxwell Davis and Jewl Grant, saxes; Willard McDaniel, pro; Ralph Hamilton, bs; Jesse Sadies, dms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LITTLE WALTER and his Night Caps</th>
<th>JIMMY REED</th>
<th>B. B. KING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sad Hours</td>
<td>Take Out Some Insurance</td>
<td>Don’t You Want A Man Like Me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago October 1952</td>
<td>Chicago March 26, 1959 Vee-Jay 314 (issued June 1959)</td>
<td>(the song was re-recorded – totally different – in 1954)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checker 764 (#2 January 1953)</td>
<td>Jimmy Reed, vcl/gtr; Lefty Bates and Eddie Taylor, gtr; Earl Phillips, dms</td>
<td>Memphis January 8, 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Walter, trag</td>
<td></td>
<td>RPM 318 (issued c. March 1951)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louis Myers, Dave Myers, Fred Below (or poss. Muddy Waters, Jimmy Rogers, Below)</td>
<td></td>
<td>B. B. King, vcl; E. A. Kamp, tensax; Ford Nelson, pro; Jamie Walker, bs; Solomon Hardy, dms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The R&B Pioneers Series – Volume Five of twelve
## THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

### Same Twelve Great Blues Singers .... Some More Favorites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Song</th>
<th>Release Date</th>
<th>Label</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>T-BONE WALKER and his Orchestra</strong></td>
<td>Travelin’ Blues</td>
<td>Los Angeles April 7, 1950</td>
<td>Imperial 5094 (autumn 1950)</td>
<td>with orchestra lead by Jim Wynn (Saxophone)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JOE TURNER and his BLUES KINGS</strong></td>
<td>TV Mama</td>
<td>Chicago October 7, 1953</td>
<td>Atlantic 1016 (#6 Jan 1954)</td>
<td>Joe Turner, vcl; feat Elmore James, gtr; Johnny Jones, pro; Red Saunders, dms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ROY BROWN</strong></td>
<td>Rocking All The Time</td>
<td>Memphis 1964</td>
<td>Home of the Blues 110 (issued 1960)</td>
<td>Roy Brown, vcl; feat Willie Mitchell, tenor; Joe Hall, pro; A-Jackson, dms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MUDDY WATERS and his guitar</strong></td>
<td>Manish Boy</td>
<td>Chicago May 24, 1955</td>
<td>Chess 1602 (#5 July 1955)</td>
<td>Muddy Waters, vcl/gtr; Abe Locke, tenor; Hosea Lee Bernard, pro; Hubert Sumlin and Abraham Smothers, gtr/s; S.P. Leary, dms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SONNY BOY WILLIAMSON</strong></td>
<td>It’s Sad To Be Alone</td>
<td>Chicago January 30, 1960</td>
<td>Checker 943 (issued 1959)</td>
<td>Sonny Boy Williamson, vcl/tenor; Otis Spann, Robert Jr Lockwood, Luther Tucker, Willie Dixon, Fred Below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOWLIN’ WOLF</strong></td>
<td>Howlin’ For My Darling</td>
<td>Chicago January 30, 1960</td>
<td>Chess 1762 (issued 1960)</td>
<td>Howlin’ Wolf, vcl; Alab Locke, tenor; Hubert Sumlin and Abraham Smothers, gtrs; S.P. Leary, dms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ELMO JAMES</strong></td>
<td>Fine Little Mama</td>
<td>New York May 23/24 1960</td>
<td>Fire 1031 (issued late 1960)</td>
<td>Elmo James, vcl/gtr; James Farr, gtr; Maxwell Davis and Jewell Grant, saxes; Willard McDaniel, pro; Ralph Hamilton, bs; Jesse Sallers, dms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LITTLE WALTER</strong></td>
<td>You’re Sweet</td>
<td>Chicago December 1959</td>
<td>Checker CD 2-9357 (1995)</td>
<td>Little Walter, vcl/tenor; Robert Jr Lockwood and Luther Tucker, gtrs; Willie Dixon, bs; George Hunter, dms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JIMMY REED</strong></td>
<td>Blue Blue Water</td>
<td>Chicago August 24, 1959</td>
<td>Vee-Jay 2LP 1035 (Oct 1961)</td>
<td>Jimmy Reed, vcl/gtr; Eddie Taylor and Phil Upchurch, gtrs; Earl Phillips, dms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B. B. KING</strong></td>
<td>Paying The Cost To Be The Boss</td>
<td>Chicago September 14, 1967</td>
<td>BluesWay 61015 (#10 April 1968)</td>
<td>B.B. King, vcl/gtr; Johnny Farte, arr/cond; Henry Booker, John Browning, Hubert Dotson, tpts; Piana Davis, bs; Lawrence Boldine, Johnny Board, Barney Hubert, saxes; Duke Jethro, org; Lee Lauchie, bs; Sonny Freeman, dms.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KING OF CHICAGO BLUES - The Hoochie Coochie Man

MUDDY WATER

"King of Chicago Blues" - "Dreamy Eyes" - Singer/guitarist and Chicago Bar Blues Patriarch, who heavily influenced the British blues boom of the early '60s. Switched from the harmonica to guitar in the early '30s. Was stationed near Clarksdale during the '30s and arrived in Chicago in 1943 calling himself "Muddy Water" (without the s-ending). Was introduced to the Chess brothers Leonard and Phil by "Bluebird" pianist Sunnysland Slim. Muddy modernized (and internationalized) the pre-war Delta country blues, first with his Hoochie Coochie Men in the '50s and later internationally with his Chicago Blues Band. Some pressings of "I'm Your Hoochie Coochie Man" titled "I'm Your Hoochie Koochie Man" (and later retitled "Hoochie Coochie Man"). Some important members: Little Walter, hca; Jimmy Rogers, gtr; Otis Spann, pno; and later James Cotton, hca; George Smith, hca; Pat Hare, gtr; James Madison, gtr; Sammy Lawhorn, Luther "Georgia Boy" Johnson, gtr; Luther "Guitar Jr." Johnson, and Pinetop Perkins, pno. His most famous drummers were Elga Edmonds, Fred Below, Francis Clay, S. P. Leary, and Willie Smith. Muddy toured heavily and several of his band members were regular session men for other Chicago acts or made a career as soloists. Charter member of the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame in 1980, and inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987.

**Essential CDs:**
- The Definitive Collection – Cerron CD 6273 (2006) or His Best 1947-1955 - MCA/Chess CHD 9370 and His Best 1955-1964 - CHD 9380 (a total of 40 great tracks, 1997) or The Chess Box (3CD) - MCA/Chess CHD3-B0002 (1990)

**For Collectors:**
- One More Mile – Chess Collectibles Vol 1 (2CD) - Chess 9348 (1997)
- Authorized Bootleg - Geffen/Chess B0012650-02 or 2517-98291 (2009) (live recordings with his band from 1966 feat. George Smith, hca - you simply have to purchase the above - it's prob the best ever live record)
- Breakin' It Up, Breakin' It Down - Waters, Winter, Cotton - Epic CD 07283 (great new-found live stuff from BlueSky, 2007)

**Editor's Choice:**
- The Chronological Muddy Waters 1941-1947 - Classics 5008 (2001)

**Reading:**
- Muddy Waters - The Mojo Man by Sandra B Toozee (ECW Press, 1997) and Can't Be Satisfied - The Life and Times of Muddy Waters by Robert Gordon (Little, Brown and Co, 2002)

**First LP:**
- The Best of Muddy Waters – Chess LP 1427 (1957)

**MUDDY WATERS, vocals/guitar “FINE-NINE”**
1. Muddy Waters with Rythm Accompaniment (sic)
   - Chicago, April 1948: U 7112 I Can't Be Satisfied - Aristocrat 1305
2. Muddy Waters and His Guitar (featuring Little Walter, hca)
   - Chicago January 23, 1951: U 7304 Long Distance Call - Chess 1452 (#8, tw-total) (live 1969)
3. (featuring Little Walter, hca, Jimmy Rogers, gtr, Otis Spann, pno)
   - Chicago, January 7, 1954: U 7585 I'm Your Hoochie Coochie Man (Hoochie Coochie Man)
   - Chess 1560 (#3, 13w)
4. (featuring Little Walter, hca, Fred Below, dms)
   - Chicago, April 13, 1954: U 7630 Just Make Love To Me (I Just Want To Make Love To You) - Chess 1571 (#4, 13w)
5. (featuring Junior Wells, hca)
   - Chicago, May 24, 1955: U 7846 Manish Boy (Mannish Boy) - Chess 1602 (#5, 6w)
6. Muddy Waters
   (featuring Little Walter, hca plus Pat Hare and Hubert Sumlin, gtr)
   - Chicago, December 1, 1956: 8389 Rock Me - Chess 1652 (1957)
7. (featuring James Cotton, hca, Otis Spann, pno) - Chicago, June 1959: 9504 Take The Bitter With The Sweet - Chess 1733
8. (featuring Cotton, Spann and Pat Hare, gtr)
   - Newport, R.I. July 3, 1960 originally recorded in January 1957 with Little Walter on hca for a 1957 single, but this is the live (and greater) version 10544 Got My Mojo Working (Parts 1 and 2)
   - Chess LP 1449 & pt 1 on single 1774 (1960)
9. (featuring Spann, Buddy Guy or PeeWee Madison, gtr)
   - Chicago, April 9, 1964: 13151 You Can't Lose What You Ain't Never Had - Chess 1896

Muddy's harp players on stage:
R&B Top 10 Hits: (14 of 16 Top 40)
1951 Louisiana Blues #10
1951 Long Distance Call #5
1951 Honey Bee #10
1951 Still A Fool #9
1952 She Moves Me #10
1953 Mad Love (I Want You To Love Me) #6
1954 I’m Your Hoochie Cooche Man #3
1954 Just Make Love To Me #4
1955 I Want You To Love Me #4
1956 She Moves Me #10
1956 Forty Days And Forty Nights #7
1956 Don’t Go No Farther #9
1958 Close To You #9

Some of His Other Best Songs:
1941 Country Blues (as McKinley Morganfield)
1946 Hard Day Blues (as McKinley Morganfield)
1947 Gypsy Woman (as Muddy Water with Sunny Land Slim)
1948 I Can’t Be Satisfied
1948 I Feel Like Going Home
1949 Screaming And Crying
1950 Rolling Stone
1950 You’re Gonna Need My Help (I Said)
1955 Sugar Sweet
1956 Rock Me
1957 Got My Mojo Working
1958 She’s 19 Years Old
1959 South Bound Train
1959 Take The Bitter With The Sweet
1960 I Got My Brand On You
1962 You Shook Me
1963 Five Long Years
1963 My Home Is In The Delta
1964 The Same Thing
1964 You Can’t Lose What You Ain’t Never Had
1966 Making Friends
1966 Black Night
1971 Who’s Gonna Be Your Sweet Man When I’m Gone

Muddy’s original Chess LPs:
1427 The Best of Muddy Waters (1957)
1444 Muddy Waters Sings “Big Bill” (broonzy) (1960)
1449 Muddy Waters At Newport (1960)
1483 Folk Singer (1964)
1501 The Real Folk Blues (1965)
1507 Brass And The Blues (1966)
1511 More Real Folk Blues (1966)
1539 Sail On (reissue of 1427) (1969)
2-127 Fathers And Sons (1969) (reissued on 50033, 1972)
1553 They Call Me Muddy Waters (1970)
60006 McKinley Morganfield AKA Muddy Waters (2-set, 1971) (reissued as LP 203, 1976)
50012 Live (At Mr. Kelly’s) (1972)
50023 Can’t Get No Grindin’ (1972)
60013 The London Muddy Waters Sessions (1972)
60036 London Revisited (w Howlin’ Wolf) (1972)
60031 “Unk” In Furie (1974) (remastered on 91513)
60035 The Woodstock Album (1975)
4000 Muddy Waters – Chess Masters (Charly UK 1981)
4006 Muddy Waters Vol. 2 (Charly UK)
4015 Muddy Waters Vol. 3 (Charly UK)
8202 Rolling Stone (Sugar Hill 1982)
9180 Rare & Unissued (1984)
6-80002 Muddy Waters (6-LP box, 1985)
9291 Trouble No More (1989)

Cadet
314 Electric Mud (1968)
320 After The Rain (1969)
BlueSky
34494 Hard Again (1977)
34928 I’m Ready
35712 Muddy “Mississippi” Waters Live
37064 King Bee
(I Just want to make love to you – live 1978 – with guests)
MUDDY WATERS: NEW CDS

Not Now 3CD Box (2015), and SoulJam 1CD (2015) + insert: You Shook Me (Hip-O-Select 2013)

Sony Music (2011) – his three Johnny Winter-produced studio albums plus bonus tracks
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

MUDDY WATERS – His Very Early Singles from 1948 to “Juke”-session 1952

Note: Muddy Water (or Muddy Waters) was co-credited on some records by Sunny Land Slim, and by Leroy Foster, and recorded as side-man on other labels. The 7/51 session was the first one featuring Jimmy Rogers. The flip on Chess 1514 was a reissue of 1305A now titled “Looking for my baby”.

3/48 (rec 47), 6/48 (both sides), 10/48

2/49, 6/49 (both rec 11/48), 11/49 (rec 7/49), 2/50 (rec 9/49)

4/50, 6/50 (both sides – all three recorded 2/50), 9/50 (first one featuring Little Walter; rec 8/50)

11/50 (rec 8/50), 3/51, 7/51 (both rec 1/51), 10/51 (rec 7/51)

12/51 (rec 7/51), 4/52 (both sides – rec 7/51 and 12/51 ), 6/52 (rec 5/52 – the “Juke” session)
**THE BLUES GIANTS OF THE 1950S**

**Muddy – The Hoochie Coochie Boy & some of his many “authorized” live CDs**

**Authorized Bootleg – Live at Fillmore Auditorium Recorded in San Francisco November 4-6, 1966**
Geffen/Chess 8219 (2005)
with Muddy Waters, vocals and guitar; George “Harmonica” Smith, harmonica; Luther “Georgia Boy/Snake” Johnson, guitar; Sammy Lawhorn, guitar; Mac Arnold, bass. Francis Clay, drums (no piano present – Otis Spann was not present at this session – although he stayed with Muddy up to 1969)

**Muddy “Mississippi” Waters Live (Legacy Edition)**
Recorded at Harry Hope’s Club, Cary, Illinois March 18, 1977
Epic Legacy CD 86559 (2003) 2CD-set with several bonus tracks
with Muddy Waters, vocals and guitar; Joe Willie “Pinetop” Perkins, pno/vcl; Jerry Portnoy hca; Johnny Winter gtr/vcl; Luther “Guitar Junior” Johnson, gtr/vcl; Sammy Lawhorn, guitar; James “Pee Wee” Madison, guitar; Joe Willie “Pinetop” Perkins, piano; Calvin “Fuzz” Jones, bass; Willie ‘Big Eyes’ Smith, drums; Bee Houston; guest guitar (one track)

**Mojo – The Live Collection**
Demon/Music Club MCCD 425 (2000)
Recorded at Washington and at Oregon University, Nov. 1971
with Muddy Waters, vocals and guitar; George “Harmonica” Smith, harmonica, Sammy Lawhorn, guitar; James “Pee Wee” Madison, guitar; Joe Willie “Pinetop” Perkins, piano; Calvin “Fuzz” Jones, bass; Willie “Big Eyes” Smith, drums; Bee Houston; guest guitar (one track)
Note: Top Cat BFTC 02982 features 12 tracks from these sessions.

and in Monthey, Switzerland, November 4, 1976
with Muddy Waters, vocals and guitar; Luther “Guitar Junior” Johnson, guitar; Bob Margolin, guitar; Jerry Portnoy, harmonica; Joe Willie “Pinetop” Perkins, piano; Calvin “Fuzz” Jones, bass (also vocal one track); Willie “Big Eyes” Smith, drums
Note: Jazz Helvetica CD02/Landscape LS2908 features 21 tracks from the 1976 session Monthey is located near Montreaux. Music Club wrongly dates the session in April, and “Guitar Junior” as vocalist on “Dust My Broom”.

**Muddy Waters In Concert**
Prestige CDSGP 0150 (1994) discogs
Muddy Waters Blues Band with Muddy Waters, vcl/gtr; Luther “Guitar 3rd” Johnson, Bob Margolin, gtrs; Joe Pinetop Perkins, pno (and 2nd vcl on one track); Jerry Portnoy, Nix; Calvin Jones, bass, Willie Smith, drums.

Eleven tracks recorded in Warsaw, Poland October 22, 1976. 17 tracks from this session originally issued on PolJazz LPs and Blues Collection CDs, and 12 further tracks from Dortmund, Germany, pro recorded October 29, issued on a Corrina LP.
# The important profiles of Muddy Waters’ Legendary Blues Band

This is a try to establish a sheet covering the members of Muddy Waters’ blues band thru the years. All dates are approximative, and as you can see several of Muddy’s side-men returned to the band after short (or longer) periods out elsewhere. The band had several more “short-termed” members. Only the most important are listed (no famous “guests”). When a band-member did not record with the band he is marked *. Little George Smith and Harmonica Smith are the same individual, but the two Johnsons are really two. *Names in bold indicate main period - (brackets indicates not regular member). This indicates: not a band member / probably more among those not indicated.

### “Muddy Water” and His Blues Combo 1946 – 1949  In The Beginning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harmonica</th>
<th>Piano</th>
<th>Guitar (I)</th>
<th>Guitar (II)</th>
<th>Bass</th>
<th>Drums</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Roots:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Muddy Waters, gtr/hca</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Walter, hca/gtr</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Junior Wells</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Clarke</td>
<td>Claude “Blue Smitty” Smith, gr</td>
<td>Jimmy Rogers, gr/hca</td>
<td>Ransom Knowling</td>
<td>Snooky &amp; Moody (gr &amp; hca)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunnyland Slim</td>
<td>Smith, gr</td>
<td>Jones</td>
<td>Big” Crawford</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Johnny Jones</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*George “Mojo” Buford</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### “The Headhunters” 1949-1950

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guitar (II)</th>
<th>Bass</th>
<th>Drums</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Little Walter</td>
<td>Jimmy Rogers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Junior Wells</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Baby Face</em> Leroy Foster (also gr)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Muddy Waters Blues Boys  1950 - 1952

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harmonica</th>
<th>Piano</th>
<th>Guitar (I)</th>
<th>Guitar (II)</th>
<th>Bass</th>
<th>Drums</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| The Hoochie Coochie Men  1953 - 1955
| Big Walter Horton        |       |                          |                         |                       |                      |
| Henry “Pit” Strong       |       |                          |                         |                       |                      |
| Little George Smith *    |       |                          |                         |                       |                      |
| (Junior Wells)           |       |                          |                         |                       |                      |
| Little Walter (in studio)|       |                          |                         |                       |                      |
| Otis Spann               | Jimmy Rogers          | (Eddie Taylor)        | (Willie Dixon)          | Elga Edmonds          |
| Pat Hare                 |                       |                       |                        | Fred Below            |
| Hubert Sumlin            |                       |                       |                        |                      |
| Luther Tucker            |                       |                       |                        |                      |
| Andrew “Stephens”        |                       |                       |                        |                      |
| Stephenson               |                       |                       |                        |                      |
| Francis Clay             |                       |                       |                        |                      |
| Willie “Big Eyes” Smith  |       |                          |                         |                      |

### The Chicago Blues Band 1964-1968

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harmonica</th>
<th>Piano</th>
<th>Guitar (I)</th>
<th>Guitar (II)</th>
<th>Bass</th>
<th>Drums</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James Cotton</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Little Walter)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(George “Mojo” Buford)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>George “Harmonica” Smith</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>James Cotton</td>
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<tr>
<td>George “Mojo” Buford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Otis Spann</td>
<td>James “Pee Wee”</td>
<td>Sammy Lawhorn</td>
<td>S.P. Leary</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>Matt “Guitar” Murphy</td>
<td>Willie “Big Eyes” Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Georgia Boy”</td>
<td></td>
<td>Smith</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Snake” Johnson</td>
<td></td>
<td>Francis Clay</td>
<td>Sam Lay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pat Hare</td>
<td>Hubert Sumlin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luther Tucker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew “Stephens”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephenson</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis Clay</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willie “Big Eyes” Smith</td>
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</table>

### 1969 - 1973

<table>
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<th>Piano</th>
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<th>Guitar (II)</th>
<th>Bass</th>
<th>Drums</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Portnoy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Walter Horton)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(James Cotton)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>George “Mojo” Buford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Willie “Pinetop” Perkins</td>
<td></td>
<td>James “Pee Wee”</td>
<td>Sammy Lawhorn</td>
<td>Willie “Big Eyes” Smith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Perkins</td>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>(Dave Myers)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“Georgia Boy”</td>
<td>(Hollywood Fats *)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“Snake” Johnson</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sonny Wimmerley</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Calvin “Fuzz” Jones</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

Profiles of Muddy Waters’ Legendary Blues Band

50

The R&B Pioneers Series - Volume Five of twelve
Two rare Muddy Waters albums and his "ultimates"

American Muddy fans had to wait until 1989 to get hold of several of Muddy’s midlate 1950s singles (if they wanted them on album). Europeans didn’t have to wait. At least three albums on the bootleg label Syndicate Chapter had been issued already in the 1970s. Below you’ll find the rare "Trouble No More" album. All recordings made in Chicago.

MCA/Chess LP/CD CH/CHD 9291 (1989)

Tracks:
Sugar Sweet / Trouble No More / All Aboard / Don’t Go No Further / I Love The Life I Live, I Live The Life I Love / Rock Me // Got My Mojo Working / She’s Got It / Close To You / Mean Mistreater / Take The Bitter With The Sweet / She’s Into Something

Discography:
(note that Muddy does not play gtr on any of the tracks)
Muddy Waters,vcl; Little Walter,hca; Otis Spann,p; Jimmy Rogers,g; Willie Dixon,b; Fred Below,d
U 7938 Sugar Sweet  November 3, 1955
U 7939 Trouble No More  1612 (R&B #7)
Muddy Waters,vcl; Little Walter,hca and James Cotton or Walter Horton, hca overdub; Pat Hare and Hubert Sumlin,gs; Willie Dixon,b; Fred Below,d
8013 All Aboard  1620
This is the flip of "Forty Days & Forty Nights (R&B #7)."
Muddy Waters,vcl; Little Walter,hca; prob Pat Hare and Hubert Sumlin,gs; Otis Spann,p; Willie Dixon,b; Odie Payne,d
8148 Don’t Go No Farther  June 29, 1956
1630 (R&B #9)
Muddy Waters,vcl; Little Walter,hca; Pat Hare and Hubert Sumlin,gs; Otis Spann,p; Willie Dixon,b; prob S.P. Leary,d
8388 A Love The Life I Live (I Live The Life I Love)  December 1, 1956
1652
Older discographies list James Cotton, hca on above two.
8392 Go My Mojo Working  January 12 or 16, 1957
1652
Muddy Waters,vcl; James Cotton,hca; Otis Spann,p; Pat Hare,g; Willie Dixon,b; prob Fred Below,d
8733 She’s Got It  ca January 1958
1692
Muddy Waters,vcl; Little Walter,hca; Otis Spann,p; Pat Hare and Luther Tucker,gs; Willie Dixon,b; Francis Clay or George Hunter,d
8980 Close To You  August 1958
1704 (R&B #9)
Muddy Waters,vcl; Little Walter,hca; Otis Spann,p; Luther Tucker,g; Andrew Stephens,b; Francis Clay,d
9194 Mean Mistreater  January 1959
1718
Muddy Waters,vcl; James Cotton,hca; Otis Spann,p; Luther Tucker,g; Andrew Stephens,b; Francis Clay,d
9503 Take The Bitter With The Sweet  June 1959
1733
9556 She’s Into Something  1733

The Ultimate Muddy Waters Collection:
The Hip-O-Select CD Series:

Muddy Waters, vcl; Little Walter, hca, Pat Hare, Luther Tucker, gs; Otis Spann, p; Andrew Stephens, b; Francis Clay, d


Walking Thru The Park, Gone To Main Street, She Moves Me, I Just Want To Make Love To You, Tiger In Your Tank, I Want You To Love Me, Got My Mojo Working // Rollin’ Stone, Baby Please Don’t Go, My Eyes (Keep Me In Trouble), Long Distance Call, 40 Days and 40 Nights, Standing Around Crying, Still A Fool
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

More of Muddy’s many Chess US compilation albums
MUDDY WATERS - ONE REPRESENTATIVE RECORD PER YEAR 1947 – 1966

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>GISP Woman (Muddy Waters) with Sunny Land Slie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Can't Be Satisfied (Muhy Waters) with Sunny Land Slie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Screaming and Chewing (Muddy Waters) with Sunny Land Slie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Bobby Stone (Muddy Waters) with Sunny Land Slie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Still a Fool (Muddy Waters) with Sunny Land Slie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1952 | She Moves Me (Muddy Waters and His Guitar)
| 1953 | Bad Love (Muddy Waters and His Guitar) with Sunny Land Slie |
| 1954 | I'm Your Hoochie Coochie Man (Muddy Waters and His Guitar)
| 1955 | Mannish Boy (Muddy Waters and His Guitar) |
| 1956 | Forty Days & Forty Nights (Muddy Waters and His Guitar) |
| 1957 | Got My Mojo Working (Muddy Waters and His Guitar) |
| 1958 | I Can't Be Satisfied (Muddy Waters and His Guitar) |
| 1959 | Forty Days & Forty Nights (Muddy Waters and His Guitar) |
| 1960 | I'm Your Hoochie Coochie Man (Muddy Waters and His Guitar) |
| 1961 | I Can't Be Satisfied (Muddy Waters and His Guitar) |
| 1962 | I'm Your Hoochie Coochie Man (Muddy Waters and His Guitar) |
| 1963 | The Same Thing (Muddy Waters) |
| 1964 | Got a Rich Man's Woman (Muddy Waters) |
| 1965 | Making Friends (Muddy Waters) |
| 1966 | The Same Thing (Muddy Waters) |
THEIR VERY FIRST LPs
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

SOME OF THE EARLY CD COMPILATIONS

2. Big Joe Turner: Rhythm & Blues Years
3. Lowell Fulson - My First Recordings
4. Roy Brown - Deluxe Blues
5. John Lee Hooker
6. Muddy Waters - on Chess "D43 557" vol.1
7. The Essential Williamson
8. Howlin' Wolf - "Let's Cut It"
9. Howlin' Wolf - Two One
10. Essential Little Walter
11. T-Bone Walker - Night Flight / Big City
12. B.B. King - The Best of B.B. King
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

PHOTO GALLERY  (in order of presentation)
Little Boy Blue – THE HARMONICA WIZARD

Inserted: Sonny Boy and Muddy Waters plus the two great Acrobat public domain CDs of 2006 and 2018.
SONNY BOY WILLIAMSON

Bred: Akech (Alex) “Rice” Miller in (as he said himself) Glendora, Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. Later also known as Willie Williams and Willie Williamson in official papers - his mother was Millie Ford who later married Sonny's father (most files say stepfather) Jim Miller. Birthdate according to his passport was April 7, 1909 (he gave his birth as December 5, 1897 – his headstone near Tutwiler, Miss says March 11, 1908, other files say 1905 and December 5, 1899. The years 1910 and 1912 are also listed. From Lonesome Cabin website/Bill Donoghue: “His brother Willie was the one who was born in 1897 and whose identity he stole along with Sonny Boy Williamson's stage name.”

Actually born in Money, LeFlore County, near Greenwood and not far from Glendora, Tallahatchie County December 5, 1912 (according to Bob Eagle and Eric LeBlanc).


“Little Boy Blue” - SBW II - “The Harmonica Wizard” - “Sonny Boy” – Harmonica player and bar and “juke joint” blues singer with true roots in the Mississippi and the Arkansas Delta, where he worked with Robert Johnson, Robert Jnr. Lockwood, the young Elmore James, and the Howlin’ Wolf. Influenced and “tutored” James Cotton, Junior Wells, Junior Parker, and Little Walter. Worked with his own radio show at KFFA, Helena, Arkansas from early 1942. Lived in West Memphis during 1949-1951. He was making radio shows out of Belzoni in Mississippi - and at KWEM in West Memphis. Spread rumours he made his recording debut very early on – no records found. Recorded for Lilian McMurry in Jackson, Miss. from the same year (some Trumpet records issued as “Sonny Boy” Williamson & His Houserockers). He also backed other Trumpet artists (a.o. “Elmo James” and Big Boy Crudup). Recorded as side-man with Tampa Red in Chicago in September, 1953. – back to Jackson – and to Detroit, recording with Baby Boy Warren in 1954. Later moved to Cleveland and East St. Louis and settled in Milwaukee, Wisc in 1960. Joined Chess/Checker in 1955, soon backed by such greats as Otis Spann and Lafayette Leake, pno; Robert Jnr. Lockwood and Luther Tucker, gtr;. and Fred Below and Odie Payne, dms. A major harp stylist, who adopted the legendary John Lee Williamson’s name before that artist was murdered in Chicago in 1949. Became a legend during his life-time, spending several periods in Europe. Charter member of the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame in 1980. Sonny Boy’s singles on Checker 1955-1956 were issued as “Sonny Boy” Williamson.

Essential CDs:
- His Best - MCA/Chess CHD 9377 (20 great chronological tracks, 1997)
- Essential Sonny Boy Williamson (2CD) - MCA/Chess CHD2 9343 (1993)

Editor’s choice:

For Collectors:
- Down And Out Blues – Not Now (2CD) NOT2CD356 (2010)

Reading:
- Fessor Mojo’s “Don’t Start Me To Talkin’” by William E. Donoghue (US, 1997) and Spinning Blues Into Gold - The Chess Brothers and the Legendary Chess Records by Nadine Cohodas (US 2000)

First LP:
- Down And Out Blues – Chess/Checker LP 1437 (1959)

SONNY BOY WILLIAMSON, vocals/harmonica “HI-FIVE”

1. Sonny Boy Williamson (featuring Willie Love, pno)
   - Jackson, MS January 4 (and March 12), 1951:
     DRC 15 Eyesight To The Blind – Trumpet 129

2. “Sonny Boy” Williamson (featuring Dave Campell, pno)
   - Jackson, MS, November 2, 1954:
     DRC 213 No Nights By Myself – US Ace 511

3. (featuring Muddy Waters and Jody Williams, gtr; Otis Spann, pno)
   - Chicago, August 12, 1955:
     U 7890 Don’t Start Me Talkin’ – Checker 824 (#3, 11w total)

4. Sonny Boy Williamson
   - (featuring Lafayette Leake, pno; Robert Lockwood Jr, gtr)
   - Chicago, March 27, 1958:
     U 8753 Your Funeral And My Trial – Checker 894
   - Matt Murphy, gtr - Chicago, January 11, 1963:
     12115 Help Me – Checker 1036

R&B Top 10 Hit: (1 of 3 Top 40)
1955 Don’t Start Me Talkin’ #3

The R&B Pioneers Series - Volume Five of twelve
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

For Your Pleasure:
1951  Eyesight To The Blind
1952  West Memphis Blues
1953  Mighty Long Time
1953  Gettin’ Out Of Town
1954  No Nights By Myself
1955  Keep It To Yourself
1956  The Key To Your Door
1957  Fattening Frogs For Snakes
1957  I Don’t Know
1957  Born Blind (Eyesight To The Blind)
1957  Ninety Nine
1958  Your Funeral And My Trial
1959  It’s Sad To Be Alone
1959  Cool Disposition
1959  The Goat
1959  I Never Do Wrong
1960  Checkin’ Up On My Baby
1960  Open Road
1960  Too Close Together
1961  Down Child
1962  Nine Below Zero
1963  Got To Move (Please Let Me Come Back Home)
1963  Help Me
1963  One Way Out
1964  I Want You Close To Me
1965  I Can’t Be Alone
1965  Bring It On Home
1965  Don’t Send Me No Flowers

Sonny Boy’s original Chess LPs
Down And Out Blues - LP 1437 (1959) issued as Checker LP 1437
The Real Folk Blues (UK: In Memorium) - LP 1503 (1965)
More Real Folk Blues - LP 1509 (1966)
Bummer Road - LP 1536 (1969)
This Is My Story - 2LP 2CH50027 (1972)
One Way Out - CHV 417 (1975)
Sonny Boy Williamson - 2LP 2ACBM-206 (1976)
SBW Chess Masters Vol 1 - 2LP Charly CXMD 4001 (1981 UK)
SBW Chess Masters Vol 2 - 2LP Charly CXMD 4012 (1983 UK)
“SONNY BOY” Checker Recordings in Chicago

A complete Checker/Chess discography of SB II

General note: Discography based on Les Fancourt’s entry in “Blues Discography: the classic years” (Eyeball 2012) and his “Chess Labels Discography” (1989). All recordings done in Chicago with Leonard Chess, Willie Dixon, and later Ralph Bass, producers. Only original Checker singles and original LP or CD albums listed (Chess - except for LP 1417 which had the Checker banner, but a Chess catalogue number). Some recordings were originally issued on “bootleg” LPs (noted). Most of the tracks on Japan PLP 6023 (and all of the bootlegs) later on Charly’s Chess RED Box 1 (R&B #3) were withdrawn after MCA (poss the alternate of “Wake Up Baby”). CD 9343 titled “The Essential” (tracks marked #). CDs 9330 and 9340 are V.A. “His Best” is a CD with cat no. 9377 (tracks marked *).

“SONNY BOY” WILLIAMSON, vdh/ca with
Otis Spann, pno; Muddy Waters & Jody Williams, gtrs; Willie Dixon, bs; Fred Below, dms
August 12, 1955
7899 Work with me
824, LP 1437, #
7899 Don’t start me talking
824 (R&B #3), LP 1437, #
7899 All my love in vain
824, LP 1437, #
7892 Good evening everybody
LP 417, #
7893 You killing me (on my feet)
LP 417, #
Note: 7890 titled “Don’t start me to talk” on LP.

with
Otis Spann, pno; Robert Jr Lockwood & Luther Tucker, gtrs; Dixon, Below
January 24, 1956
7980 Let me explain
834, LP 1437, #
7981 I know what love is all about
834, LP 1437, #
7982 I wonder why
834, LP 206, #
7983 Your imagination
834, LP 1437, #
7984 Don’t lose your eye
LP 417, #

omit pno

August 7, 1956
8205 Keep it to yourself
847 (R&B #14), LP 417, #
8206 Please forgive
LP 1437
8207 The key (to your door)
847, LP 1437
8208 Have you ever been in love
CD 9343 (R)

Note: 8206 wrongly titled “Keep it to yourself” on the LP.

SONNY BOY WILLIAMSON, vd/ca with
same musicians as above

February 8, 1957
8408-2 Hurts me so much
Blues Ball LP 2004
8408-3 alt. take o.a.
8408-4 alt. take o.a.
8409 Fattening frogs for snakes
alt. take o.a.
8410 I don’t know
alt. take o.a.
8411 Like Wolf
LP 417, #
8412 This is my apartment
LP 417

add Spann, pno

September 1, 1957
8593 Cross my heart
910, LP 1437, #
8593-1/2 alt. take o.a.
8593-3 alt. take o.a.
8594 Born blind
883, LP 417, #
8595 Ninety nine (Ninety-nine)
883, LP 1437, #
8595-1/3 alt. take o.a.

LP 6023
8595-2/3 alt. take o.a. (“99”)
LP 206
8596 Dissatisfied
910, LP 1437
8596-1/3 alt. take o.a.

LP 6023
Note: 8594 is a remake of Sonny’s Trumpet recording Eyesight to the blind. 8595 titled 99 on LP 1437 and Ninety Nine on Chess Box I.

same session
18030 Little village
LP 1536
18030-2 Little village
18031 Unseen eye
LP 1536, #

with
Lafayette Leake, pno; Robert Jr Lockwood & Eugene Pearson, gtrs; Dixon, Below
March 27, 1958
8753 Your funeral and my trial
884, LP 1437, #
8753-2/4 alt. take o.a.
8753-5 alt. take o.a.

LP 6023
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

8754. She got next to me (Mattie is my wife) LP 1536
alt. take o.a. LP 206
8755. Wake up baby 894, LP 1437
8755-2. alt. take o.a. Japan PLP 6023 &
8756. Keep your hands out of my pocket * LP 1536, #

with Otis Spann,pno; Robert Jr Lockwood & Luther Tucker,gtrs; Willie Dixon,b/s; Otis Payne,bs; December 14, 1960
LP 1503, #
10569. Too young to die (Mattie is my wife) -3
10570. She's my baby LP 1509, #
10571. Stop right now 975, LP 1509, #
10572. The hunt -1 975, LP 1509

same with Fred Below, dms September 8, 1961
11224. Too old to think LP 1503
11225. That's all I want LP 1503
11226. One way out 1003, LP 417, #
11226-1/4. alt. take o.a. Japan PLP 6023 &
11227. Nine below zero * LP 1503, #
11227-1/3. alt. take o.a. Japan PLP 6023

with Lafayette Leake or Billy Emerson,org; Matt Murphy,gtr; Milton Rector,b/s; Al Duncan,dms January 11, 1963
12111. Got to move LP 1503
12114. Bye bye bird * 1036, LP 1509, #
12115. Help me * 1036 (rca-victor), LP 1509; #
12116. Bring it on home * 1134, LP 1503, #

Note: Crowd noise added on 12116 on a VA-LP. A more correct title for 12113 would have been "Baby let me please come home".

with Jarrett Gibson,tsax, Donald Hankins,bsax; Lafayette Leake, pno; Buddy Guy,gtr; Jack Meyers,bs; Clifton James, dms September 3, 1963
12663. One way out ChessBox 1
12664. My younger days + 1080, LP 1509
12665. Trying to get back on my feet 1065, LP 1509, #
12666. Decoration day 1065, LP 1509, #

with Lafayette Leake, pno; Buddy Guy, gtr; Jack Meyers, bs; Fred Below, dms April 30, 1964
13210. Stop crying LP 206
13211. I want you close to me 1080, LP 1509, #
13212. One way out * LP 1503

Note: 13211 titled "Close to me" on LP.

with Jarrett Gibson, tsax (not on -1); Donald Hankins, bsax (not on -1); Lafayette Leake, org-(2)/pno-1; Buddy Guy, gtr (not on -1): possibly Jack Meyers; bs, possibly Clifton James, dms August 1964
15171. I ain't been alone -3 LP 206, #
15172-1/3. Don't make a mistake (Mattie is my wife) -3
15172-2/4. alt. take o.a. -3
15173. Understand my life -2
15174. Find another woman (Gonna find somebody else) -1

The R&B Pioneers Series - Volume Five of twelve
61
SONNY’S original Chess CDs (except for the LPs reissued on CD)

Here are the best if you can’t get the Charly Box:

The Essential – Universal/Chess (2-set 1993)

A 45-tracks collection of singles and LP-tracks released on the Checker and Chess labels 1955 through 1964. “The Key” is the alternate and ‘Little Village’ has a false start.

Check pages 60-61 for tracks! Includes a booklet with a biographical profile.

Your Funeral, My Trial video of 1963

SONNY BOY’S CHECKER SINGLES

1955
824  Don’t Start Me Talkin’ – All My Love In Vain
836  Let Me Explain – Your Imagination
847  Keep It To Yourself - The Key (To Your Door)
1957
864  Fattening Frogs For Snakes – I Don’t Know
883  Ninety Nine – Born Blind
1958
894  Your Funeral And My Trial – Wake Up Baby
910  Dissatisfied – Cross My Heart
1959
927  Let Your Conscience Be Your Guide – Unseeing Eye
1960
943  The Goat – It’s Sad To Be Alone
956  Temperature 110 – Lonesome Cabin
1961
963  Too Close Together – Trust My Baby
975  Stop Right Now – The Hunt
1962
1002  One Way Out – Nine Below Zero
1963
1036  Help Me - Bye Bye Bird
1964
1065  Trying To Get Back On My Feet – Decoration Day
1080  I Want You Close To Me – My Younger Days
1965
1134  Bring It On Home – Down Child

Note: Sonny Boy made 17 sessions for Checker – two of them produced no single (the most famous: the “Checkin’ Up On My Baby” session of April 1960; and the last of August 1964). Trumpet had issued 12 singles (including one on US Ace) between 1951 and 1955.
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

CHESS RECORDS’ “BIG FOUR”


Sonny Boy from the Trumpet days (with Willie Nix and Robert Jr Lockwood)
Early photos of Robert Jr. and Sonny Boy in Arkansas.
SONNY BOY & THE WOLF – TEN REPRESENTATIVE SINGLES EACH

1951  1954  1955  1956
1957  1958  1959  1960
1963  1964  1951  1951
1954  1956  1957  1959
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

THE MIGHTY WOLF

Inserted: One of the most interesting books on some of the great Mississippi Legends (from the 1920s up 'til today). Featuring detailed stories on Charley Patton, Son House, Tommy Johnson, Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, Howlin' Wolf, B.B.King – and more (published 2008). Some main storys of the greats are missing (Sonny Boy and Jimmy Reed...).
**HOWLIN’ WOLF**

**Essential CDs:**
- Smokey Stack Lightning: The Complete Chess Masters 1951-1960
  - Hip-O Select: 4CD-set 1530902
  - The Definitive Collection – Geltten 87844 (2007)
  - The Chess Box (3CD) – MCAChess CHD3-9332 (1991)
  - The Back Door Wolf - MCAChess CD CHD 9358 (1995)
  - his last great Chess sides prod by Ralph Bass with a great bonus track.

**Editor’s choice:**
- The Complete Recordings 1951-1969 (7CD) – Charly RED Box 7 (1993)
  - including all 54 Chess/Philips Memphis recordings
  - got it or its pre-issue Howlin’ Wolf Rides Again - Ace CDCHD 333 (1991)

**For Collectors:**
  - 40 of the Chess/Philips tracks; also found on the first two volumes of "The Complete" above.
- Wolf’s Memphis recordings are simply terrific!

**Reading:**
- Moanin’ At Midnight - The Life and Times of Howlin’ Wolf by James Segrest & Mark Hoffman (Pantheon, 2004) and Chicago Breakdown by Mike Rowe (Edison Bluesbooks, 1973)

**First LPs:**
- Moanin’ In The Moonlight – Chess LP 1434 (1958)

**HOWLIN’ WOLF, vocals/harmonica/guitar “BIG-SIX”**

1. The Howlin’ Wolf (featuring Ike Turner or possibly Albert Williams, pno; Willie Johnson, gtr) – Memphis, Tenn, July 1951:
   - U 12, How Many More Years – Chess 1479 (#4, 11w total)
2. Howlin’ Wolf (featuring Hootie Lee Kennard, pno; Willie Johnson and Hubert Sumlin, gtr) - Chicago, January 1956:
   - U 7995 Smoke Stack Lightning – Chess 1618 (8w, 3w)
3. (featuring Hubert Sumlin, gtr) – Chicago, July 1959:
   - U 7990 Howlin’ For My Darling – Chess 1762
4. (featuring Johnny Jones, pno; Hubert Sumlin, gtr) - Chicago, June 1961:
   - 10938 The Red Rooster – Chess 1955
5. (featuring Henry Gray, pno) – Chicago, December 1961:
   - 11379 I Ain’t Superstitious – Chess 1823
6. (w Leake, pno; Sumlin and Buddy Guy, gtr) - Chicago, August 1964:
   - 13418 Killing Floor – Chess 1923

**R&B Top 10 Hits:**
- Moanin’ At Midnight (1951)
- How Many More Years (1951)
- Smoke Stack Lightning (1956)
- I Asked For Water (1956)

**To Get You Excited:**
- 1951 Ridin’ In The Moonlight (on RPM as The Howling Wolf)
- 1952 House Rockin’ Boogie (Crown, 1961)
- 1952 Brownskin Woman (Crown)
- 1952 Bluebird
- 1952 Come Back Home
- 1954 Evil Is Going On
- 1954 Forty Four
- 1955 I’ll Be Around
- 1957 The Natchez Burnin’
- 1957 Tell Me
- 1957 Sittin’ On Top Of The World
- 1958 I’m Leaving You
- 1958 Howlin’ Blues (I’m Going Away)
- 1959 Howlin’ For My Darling
- 1960 Back Door Man
- 1960 Sippin’
- 1961 The Red Rooster
- 1961 Goin’ Down Slow
- 1961 I Ain’t Superstitious
- 1962 Tall Dragger
- 1963 Built For Comfort
- 1964 Killing Floor
- 1965 I Walked From Dallas
- 1973 Coon On The Moon

**Born:** Chester Arthur Burnett, June 10, 1910, White Station (4 miles northeast of West Point - northeast of the Delta region), Clay County, Miss.

**Died of cancer January 10, 1976.**

**First recordings:**
- Memphis, Tenn May 14, 1951 Baby Ride With Me (aka Ridin’ In The Moonlight) and How Many More Years - unissued acetates for Sam Phillips; as above or June, 1951 (new acetates from Sam Phillips Baby Ride With Me aka Riding In The Moonlight and How Many More Years - Chess 1479) - issued on August 15 (this session, produced by Phillips); West Memphis September, 1951 Riding In The Moonlight / Morning At Midnight - RPM 333 (plus Dog Me Around and Keep What You Got - all four produced by Joe Bihari). First in Chicago: March, 1954
- No Place To Go - Chess 1566.

**Records for:** RPM and Chess 51-52, Chess 53-75.

**“The Mighty Wolf”, “Big Foot”, “John D” — electrifying guitarist/harmonica player and Delta/Chicago blues singer, who modernized the pre-war country blues traditions of the Delta. Learned the guitar from Charley Patton and the harmonica from Sonny Boy II in Mississippi and Arkansas. Started his own band in West Memphis in 1948 - the Houserockers. Worked as a DJ and was introduced to record makers by Ike Turner in 1951. Recorded in Memphis for Sam Phillips (who leased the masters to Chess), and in West Memphis for the Bihari brothers (issued on RPM). Nowadays there is material enough for three full CDs covering Wolf’s early period - and a truly powerful one! Moved to Chicago and Chess in 1953. Some famous members of his Chicago band of the ’50s and early ’60s: Willie Johnson, gtr; Hubert Sumlin, gtr; Hosea Lee Kennard and later Henry Grey and Johnny Jones, pno; and Earl Phillips and later S.P. Leary, dms (some blues fans even think Wolf’s band was better than Waters’). One of the Chess labels’ important blues legends - ”The Big Four” (Muddy Wolf, Little Walter, and Sonny Boy). Charter member of the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame in 1980, and inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1991.**
Wolf's original Chess LPs

- Moanin’ in the Moonlight - LP 1434 (1958)
- Howlin’ Wolf (“Rocking Chair”) - LP 1469 (1962)
- The Real Folk Blues - LP 1502 (1965)
- More Real Folk Blues - LP 1512 (1965)
- Evil - LP 1540 (reissue of 1434) (1969)
- The Howlin’ Wolf Album - Cadet 319 (1969)
- Message To The Young - LP 50002 (1971)
- The London Sessions - LP 50008 (1971)
- Live And Cookin’ - LP 50015 (1972)
- The Back Door Wolf - LP 50045 (1973)
- A.K.A. Chester Burnett - 2LP 60016 (1972) (reissued as LP 201)
- Change My Way - LP 418 (1975)
- Chess Masters - 2LP CXMD 4004 (Charly UK 1981)
- Chess Masters vol 2 - 2LP 4007 (Charly UK 1982)
- Chess Masters vol. 3 - 2LP 4014 (Charly UK 1983)

The Howling Wolf’s RPM / Crown recordings

- Riding In The Moonlight - RPM 333 (as Howling Wolf)
- Morning (Moanin’) At Midnight (no pno) - RPM 333 (as Howling Wolf)
- Keep What You Got -1 - Crown LP 5240
- Dog Me Around (How Many More Years) - Crown LP 5240
- Worried About My Baby - Crown LP 5240
- House Rockin’ Boogie - Crown LP 5240
- Chocolate Drop (alt of above) - Ace LP CH 52
- Driving This Highway - Polydor LP Z383 257
- The Sun Is Shining - Kent LP 9002
- Stealing My Clothes (My Friends) - Kent LP 9002
- I’m The Wolf - Kent LP 9002

**Note:** During this period Wolf also recorded several singles for Chess plus originally unused tracks for Sam Phillips in Memphis, first with Ike Turner and later mostly with Albert Williams (and L.C. Hubert or Bill Johnson), pno; and pass Roger Jones, bs; and Steele (May 14 and c. June, plus July and December 18, 1951; an earlier January 23, April 17, and October 7, 1952).
SOME OF THE WOLF’S LATER CDs

Not Now Music 3CD (2015), Acrobat 3CD (2014),

Big 3 3CD (2015), Hip-0-Select 4CD (2011), and Four Classic Albums on Avi 2CD (2015)
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

The Howlin’ Wolf Gallery

Ace CDCHD 333 (1991 – 18 great RPM tracks), Ace CHCHHM 1013 (2004 – all his 20 RMP/Modern recordings), plus his original LP on Crown CLP 5240 (1962), and the Custom reissue CM 2055 (ca 1966)

United/Superior 7717 (same cover on British Ember), United 717 (ca 1970), Kent KST 516 (1968), and United 7747 (ca 1977)

The Charly CD RED Box 7 (1993 out of catalogue – featuring 151 sides made for Sam Phillips in Memphis and for Chess Records in Chicago)
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

The HOWLIN’ WOLF Memphis (Chess) and West Memphis (RPM) Singles

Note: Dates indicated issue dates and recording dates. Any of A-B-side may be the plug side.

Chess 1479 (A- and B-sides) issued August 15, 1951 (rec July 1951); RPM 333 (A- and B-sides) September 1951 (rec September 1951)

RPM 340 (A- and B-sides) December 1951 (rec October 2, 1951); Chess 1497 (A- and B-sides) January 14, 1952 (rec December 18, 1951)

RPM 347 (A- and B-sides) late January 1952 (rec October 2, 1951); Chess 1510 (A- and B-sides) April 15, 1952 (rec January 23, 1952)

Chess 151 (A- and B-sides) ca July 1952 (rec April 17, 1952); Chess 1528 (A- and B-sides) November 1952 (rec October 7, 1952)

THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

Original label credits on some famous blues singles

THE Blues Giants of the 1950s - Twelve Great Legends
Compiled by Claus Röhnisch
also see: "Top Rhythm & Blues Records", "Top Ten Vocal Groups", and "Hooker Session Discography".

Sources (and acknowledgments)

All books listed in the presentations (and the inlay album notes of the LPs and CDs presented, plus fans' and official artist websites) were consulted in compiling "THE Blues Giants". Below you will find some other worthwhile blues books from my collection. Thank you - all authors listed.

- BLUES – A Regional Experience: Bob Eagle and Eric S. Lalibert (US, 2013)
- The Blues Discography 1943 - 1970 (The Classic Years) by Leo Fancourt and Bob McGrath (second and third editions pub by Eyeball Productions 2006 and 2019)
- The Soul Discography 1860-1960 by Bob McGrath (Eyeball 2010-2012), three volumes
- The Blues Discography 1971-2000 (The Later Years) by Robert Ford and Bob McGrath (Eyeball 2011)

- * Feel Like Going Home
- * Urban Blues
- * Chess Records
- * The Willie Dixon Story: George Lipsitz (US 2010)

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- The Blues Discography 1971-2000 (The Later Years) by Robert Ford and Bob McGrath (Eyeball 2011)
The Blues Giants of the 1950s

The R&B Pioneers Series - Volume Five of twelve

Not Now Music “public domain” blues series

Not Now Music has a fine series of double- and triple-CDs featuring classic post-war electric blues

Below you’ll find some of their extensive catalogue. Check for more at http://www.notnowmusic.co.uk/blues.htm

The Blues Foundation
BLUE HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS

Literature, Albums, and Singles

2013

Classics of Blues Literature

Classics of Blues Recordings – Album
Louis Jordan’s Greatest Hits (Decca 1969)

More Real Folk Blues — Howlin’ Wolf (Chess 1967)

Complete Recorded Works: Texas Worried Blues — Henry Ragtime Texas Thomas (Herwin 1975/Yazoo 1989)

Classics of Blues Recordings – Single or Album Track
How Many More Years — Howlin’ Wolf (Chess, 1951)

Canned Heat Blues — Tommy Johnson (Victor, 1928)

Let the Good Times Roll — Louis Jordan (Decca, 1946)

Mystery Train — Little Junior’s Blue Flames (Junior Parker) (Sun, 1953)

Me and My Chauffeur Blues — Memphis Minnie (Okeh, 1941)

2014

Classics of Blues Literature
Dream Boogie: The Triumph of Sam Cooke – Peter Guralnick (Little, Brown and Company, 2005)

Classics of Blues Recordings – Album
Moanin’ in the Moonlight — Howlin’ Wolf (Chess 1959)

Hawk Squat — J.B. Hutto (Delmark, 1969)

Classics of Blues Recordings – Single or Album Track
High Water Everywhere, Parts I & II — Chafey Patton (Paramount 1930)

It’s Tight Like That by Tampa Red & Georgia Tom (Vocalion 1928)

Milk Cow Blues — Kokomo Arnold (Decca 1934)

After Hours — Erskine Hawkins and His Orchestra (Bluebird 1940)

Catfish Blues — Robert Petway (Bluebird 1941)

2015

Only Performers inducted
Tommy Brown, Eric Clapton, Little Richard

2016

Classics of Blues Literature
Early Downhome Blues: A Musical and Cultural Analysis, by Jeff Todd Titon

Classics of Blues Recordings – Album
Blues in the Mississippi Night (Nixa, 1957; United Artists, 1959)

Classics of Blues Recordings – Single or Album Track
Mamie Smith: Crazy Blues (Okeh, 1920)

Jimmy Rogers: That’s All Right (Chess, 1950)

Billy Boy Arnold: I Wish You Would (Vee-Jay, 1955)

Johnny Moore’s Three Blazers (Charles Brown, vocal and piano): Merry Christmas Baby (Exclusive, 1947)

Leroy Carr and Scarpper Blackwell: Blues Before Sunrise (Vocalion, 1934)

2017

Classics of Blues Literature
Father of the Blues – W.C. Handy (De Capo, 1941)

Classics of Blues Recordings – Album
Real Folk Blues – John Lee Hooker (Chess, 1966)

Classics of Blues Recordings – Single or Album Track
Bo Diddley — Bo Diddley (Checker, 1955)

Hi-Heel Sneakers – Tommy Tucker (Chess, 1963)

I Ain’t Superstitious — Howlin’ Wolf (Chess, 1961)

I’ll Play the Blues For You — Albert King (Stax, 1971)

Preachin’ the Blues – Son House (Paramount, 1930)

2018

Classics of Blues Literature
I Feel So Good: The Life and Times of Big Bill Broonzy, by Bob Riesman

Classics of Blues Recordings - Album
B.B. King: Blues Is King (ABC BluesWay, 1967)

Classics of Blues Recordings – Single or Album Track
See See Rider Blues — Ma Rainey (Paramount, 1924)

I’m a Man — Bo Diddley (Checker, 1955)

Roll ‘Em Pete — Joe Turner (Vocalion, 1938)

Green Onions — Booker T. & the MG’s (Stax/Volt, 1962)

Cross Cut Saw — Albert King (Stax, 1966)
The Blues Foundation: BLUES HALL OF FAME

Below you’ll find inductions of Literature, Albums, and Singles to the Blues Hall of Fame 1982-2012 (it started in 1982). See page 77 for 2013-2018. Performers, see Wikipedia (Inductions) or The Blues Foundation website http://www.blues.org/

1982
Classics of Blues Literature
Blues and Gospel Records 1900-1942, by Robert M.W. Dixon and John Godrich (image above is the revised edition 1980-1943)
Blues Unlimited magazine, founded by Simon Napier and Mike Leadbitter
Living Blues Magazine, founded by Bruce Iglauer, Jim O’Neal, Amy van Singel, Paul Garon, et al.
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album
King of the Delta Blues Singers—Robert Johnson (Columbia, 1961)
1983
Classics of Blues Literature
Blues Who’s Who: A Biographical Dictionary of Blues Singers, by Sheldon Harris
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album
Founder of the Delta Blues—Charley Patton (Yazoo)
Live at the Regal—B.B. King (ABC-Paramount, 1965)
McKinley Morganfield A.K.A. Muddy Waters—Muddy Waters (Chess, 1971)
The Best of Muddy Waters—Muddy Waters (Chess, 1959)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single
Call it Stormy Monday (But Tuesday is Just as Bad)—T-Bone Walker (Black & White, 1947)
Dust My Broom—Elmore James (Trumpet, 1951)
Hell Hound On My Trail—Robert Johnson (ARC/Vocalion, 1936)
Sweet Home Chicago—Robert Johnson (Vocalion, 1936)
Worried Life Blues—Big Maceo (Bluebird, 1941)
1984
Classics of Blues Literature
Deep Blues, by Robert Palmer
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album
Bessie Blues Harmonica—Little Walter (Chess, 1972)
Hoodoo Man Blues—Junior Wells (Delmark, 1966)
Wast Side Soul—Magic Sam Blues Band (Delmark, 1968)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single
Got My Mojo Working—Muddy Waters (Chess album track, 1960)
I’m Your Hoochie Coochie Man—Muddy Waters (Chess 1954)
The Things That I Used to Do—Guitar Slim (Specialty, 1953)
1985
Classics of Blues Literature
Blues Records 1943-1966, by Mike Leadbitter & Neil Slaven
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album
Born Under a Bad Sign—Albert King (Stax)
Chester Burnett A.K.A Howlin’ Wolf—Howlin’ Wolf (Chess, 1972)
Howlin’ Wolf (”roaring chair” album—Howlin’ Wolf (Chess, 1962)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single
Boogie Chiller—John Lee Hooker (Modern, 1948)
Smokestack Lightning—Howlin’ Wolf (Chess 1956)
The Thrill is Gone—B.B. King (ABC Bluesway 1969)
1986
Classics of Blues Literature
Chicago Breakdown (Chicag Blues), by Mike Rowe
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album
I Am The Blues—Willie Dixon (Columbia)
Ike Pudder—Albert Collins (Alligator, 1978)
Live Wire—Blues Power—Albert King (Stax)
1986 (cont’d)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single
Cross Road Blues—Robert Johnson (ARC/Vocalion, 1936)
Juke—Little Walter (Checker, 1952)
Mannish Boy—Muddy Waters (Chess 1955)
Classics of Blues Literature
The Story of the Blues, by Paul Oliver
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album
Blues Before Sunrise—Leroy Carr (Columbia)
Hide Away—Freddie (Freddy) King (King, 1965)
Two Steps From the Blues—Bobby “Blue” Bland (Duke)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single
Big Road Blues—Tommy Johnson (Victor, 1928)
Help Me—Sonny Boy Williamson #2 (Checker 1963)
Please Send Me Someone to Love—Percy Mayfield (S Specialty 1950)
1988
Classics of Blues Literature
The Blues Fell This Morning (The Meaning of the Blues), by Paul Oliver
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album
Down on Stovall’s Plantation—Muddy Waters (Testament, 1966)
The Chess Box—Muddy Waters (P-Vine Special, 1985)
The Original Flair & Meteor Sides—Elmore James (Ace)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single
Born Under a Bad Sign—Albert King (Stax, 1967)
Poetry Blues—Charley Patton (Paramount 1929)
1989
Classics of Blues Literature
Feel Like Going Home, by Peter Guralnick
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album
Live on Maxwell Street—Robert Nighthawk (Rounder)
Showdown—Albert Collins, Robert Gray & Johnny Copeland (Alligator)
The World’s Greatest Blues Singer—Besse Smith (Columbia, 1970)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single
Come On In My Kitchen—Robert Johnson (ARC/Vocalion, 1936)
Drifting Blues—Charles Brown with Johnny Moore’s Three Blazers (Phil-Audion, 1945)
Long Distance Call—Muddy Waters (Chess, 1951)
1990
Classics of Blues Literature
Big Bill Blues, by Big Bill Bronzoyn & Yannick Brunyoghe
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album
Blac Magic—Magic Sam Blues Band (Delmark, 1969)
The Chess Box—Willie Dixon (Chess)
The Complete 1931 Session—Skip James (Yazoo)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single
Big Boss Man—Jimmy Reed (Vee-Jay, 1960)
Good Morning, School Girl—Sonny Boy Williamson #1 (Bluebird 1937)
Terraplane Blues—Robert Johnson (ARC/Vocalion, 1936)
1991
Classics of Blues Literature
Big Road Blues, by David Evans
Conversation with the Blues, by Bob Dylan
The Country Blues by Samuel Charters
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album
Come On In My Kitchen—Robert Johnson (ARC/Vocalion, 1936)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single
Can’t Get No Grindin’—Muddy Waters (Chess, 1973)
Chicago/The Blues Today! Vol. 1—3 Various Artists (Vanguard, 1966)
The Best of Little Walter—Little Walter (Checker, 1958)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single
Killing Floor—Howlin’ Wolf (Chess 1964)
Nine Below Zero—Sonny Boy Williamson #2 (Trumpet 1951)
Rocket 88—Jackie Brenston and His Delta Cats (Chess, 1951)
The Sky is Crying—Elmore James (Fire 1959)
1992
Classics of Blues Literature
I Am the Blues: The Willie Dixon Story, by Willie Dixon with Don Snowden
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album
Blues From the Gutter—Champion Jack Dupree (Alligator, 1963)
Father of the Folk Blues—Son House (Columbia)
Parchman Farm—Bukka White (Columbia, 1970)
The Complete Recordings—Robert Johnson (Columbia/Legacy, 1990)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single
Baby Please Don’t Go—Big Joe Williams (Bluebird, 1935)
Statesboro Blues—Blind Willie McTell (Victor 1928)
1993
Classics of Blues Literature
Urban Blues by Charles Kel
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album
Chicago Bound—Jimmie Rogers (Chess)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single
Reconsider Baby—B. B. King (Columbia, 1959)
1994
Classics of Blues Literature
Nothing But the Blues, Lawrence Cohn, editor
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album
T-Bone Walker—The Complete Recordings of T-Bone Walker 1940-1954
(Chess, 1990)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single
I Can’t Quit You Baby—Otis Rush (Cobra 1956)
Texas Flood—Larry Davis (Duke, 1958)
The Blues Giants of the 1950s

1955
Classics of Blues Literature Searching for Robert Johnson, by Peter Guralnick
The Land Where the Blues Began, by Alan Lomax
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album Boss of the Blues - Big Joe Turner (Atlantic)
Otis Spann's Blues - Otis Spann (Candix)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single, Wang Dang Doodle - Ko Ko Taylor (Checker) 1965
1956
Classics of Blues Literature Sweet Soul Music: Rhythm and Blues and the Southern Dream of Freedom, by Peter Guralnick
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album Hound Dog Taylor & the Houserockers - Hound Dog Taylor & the Houserockers (Alligator)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single, Messin' With the Kid - Junior Wells (Chess) 1966
1959
Classics of Blues Literature The World Don't Owe Me Nothing, by David "Honeyboy" Edwards
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album Blues Hit Big Town - Junior Wells (Delmark)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single, Dark Was The Night - Blind Willie Johnson (Columbia, 1927) 2000
Classics of Blues Literature The Country Blues, by Samuel Charters
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album Mississippi Delta Blues-Mississippi Fred McDowell (Arcotie)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single, Down Home Blues - Z.Z. Hill (Malaco, 1982)
2001
Classics of Blues Literature Stormy Monday: The T-Bone Walker Story, by Helen Dance
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album The Complete Plantation Recordings: Muddy Waters (MCA Chass, 1993)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single, Shake, Rattle and Roll - Big Joe Turner (Atlantic, 1954) 2002
Classics of Blues Literature Speeches: The Chess Brothers and the Legendary Chess Records, by Nadine Cohodas
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album Live in Cook County Jail - B.B. King (ABC, 1971)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single, Going Down Slow - St. Louis Jimmy Oden (Bluebird) 1941
2003
Classics of Blues Literature Can't Be Satisfied: The Life and Times of Muddy Waters, by Robert Gordon
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album It's My Life! - Junior Wells (Vanguard, 1966)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single, Part Time Love - Little Johnny Taylor (Galaxy) 1963
2004
Classics of Blues Literature Juke Blues magazine
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album Rainin' in My Heart - Slim Harpo
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single, Baby What You Want Me To Do - Jimmy Reed (Vee-Jay) 2005
Classics of Blues Literature Blues People, by LeRoi Jones (Amin Baraka)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album Down Home - J.Z. Hill (Malaco Records, 1982)
Classics of Blues Literature Blues & Rhythm magazine
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album I Don't Play No Rock 'n' Roll - Mississippi Fred McDowell (Capitol)
Screamin' and Hollerin' the Blues: The Worlds of Charley Patton (Revenant)
Tell Mama - Etta James (Cadet)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single, Devil Got My Woman - Skip James (Paramount)
Honky Tons, Parts 1 & 2 - Bill Doggett (King)
Hound Dog - Big Mama Thornton (Peacock) 2007
Classics of Blues Literature Blues With a Feeling: The Little Walter Story, by Tony Glover, Scott Dinks & Ward Gaines
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album Angola Prisoner's Blues - Robert Pete Williams & others (Louisiana Folklore Society, 1959)
Screamin' and Hollerin' the Blues: The Worlds of Charley Patton (Revenant)
Deaf Death Letter - Son House (Columbia album track, 1965)
Hide Away (Hideway) - Freddie King (Federal, 1961) 2008
Classics of Blues Literature 7 Guitars, by August Wilson
Meanin' at Midnight: The Life and Times of Howlin' Wolf - James Segrest & Mark Hoffman
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album Freddy King Sings (King LP, 1961) Freddy King
I'm Jimmy Reed (Vee-Jay LP, 1958) Jimmy Reed
Members Only (Malaco LP, 1985) Bobby Bland
Pinetop Blues (Delmark LP, 1958) Big Joe Williams
Rocks the House (Argo LP, 1964; Chess CD with bonus tracks, 1994) Etta James
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single, Back Water Blues - Bessie Smith (Columbia, 1927)
Double Trouble - Otis Rush (Cobra, 1958)
My Babe - Little Walter (Checker, 1955) 2009
Classics of Blues Literature I Hear You Knockin', by Jeff Hamnsch
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album Amtrak Blues (Columbia, 1978) - Alberta Hunter
Blues With a Feeling: Newport Folk Festival Classics (Vanguard 2-CD set, 1995) - Various Artists
T-Bone Blues (Atlantic, 1959) - T-Bone Walker
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single, Boom Boom - John Lee Hooker (Vee-Jay, 1962)
Caldonia - Louis Jordan (Decca, 1945)
Sitting on Top of the World - Mississippi Sheiks (Okeh, 1930) 2010
Classics of Blues Literature The Bluesmen, by Samuel Charters
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album Hung Down Head - Howlin Wolf (Chess LP, 1970; CD, 1996)
I Hear Some Blues Downstairs by Fenton Robinson (Alligator LP, 1977; CD, 1991)
Strong Persuader by Robert Cray (Mercury LP/CD, 1986)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single, All Your Love (I Miss Loving) - Otis Rush (Cobra, 1958)
Fever - Little Willie John (King, 1956)
Key to the Highway - Big Bill Broonzy (OKeh, 1941)
Match Box Blues - Blind Lemon Jefferson (OKeh and Paramount, 1927)
Spoonful - Howlin' Wolf (Chess, 1960) 2011
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album False Accusations - Robert Cray (High Tone 1985)
Night Beat - Sam Cooke (RCA Victor 1963)
The Real Folk Blues - Howlin' Wolf (Chess 1965)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single, Ain't Nobody's Business - Jimmy Witherspoon (Supreme, 1947)
Five Long Years - Eddie Boyd (J.O.B., 1952)
Hard Time Killin' Floor Blues - Skip James (Paramount, 1931)
Love in Vain - Robert Johnson (Vocation, 1937) 2012
Classics of Blues Literature Bessie, by Chris Albertson
The Voice of the Blues, edited by Jim O'Neal & Amy van Singel
Classics of Blues Recordings - Album Damn Right, I've Got The Blues - Buddy Guy (Silverstone, 1991)
Bad Influence - The Robert Cray Band (High Tone, 1993)
Classics of Blues Recordings - Single, All Your Love - Magic Sam (Cobra, 1967)
It Hurts Me Too - Tampa Red (Bluebird, 1940)
Pine Top's Boogie Woogie - Pine Top Smith (Vocation, 1928)
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

KING OF SLIDE GUITAR

BLUES - A Regional Experience  – published 1 May 2013
by Bob Eagle and Eric S. LeBlanc
Publisher: Praeger (US and UK), Hardback 630 pages
Featuring accurate birth and death data on more than 1,500 blues and R&B performers. (although missing the vocal group singers)
ELMORE JAMES

"King of Slide Guitar" - Guitarist/Delta blues singer and the most important slide guitar stylist and "disciple" of the legendary Robert Johnson. Toured with Sonny Boy II and Robert Jnr Lockwood in the Delta during the '30s. Worked in Mississippi, Arkansas and came to Chicago in 1952. Debuted recording in Jackson, Miss 1951 and was recorded by Ike Turner for the Bihtans, (led by Joe Bihari, who also recorded him in the South, Chicago, L.A. and N.O.). Bad health kept Elmore from recording more than he did. His famous band were the Broom Dusters, featuring members of the legendary Tampa Red’s band: Little Johnny Jones, pno; J.T. Brown, sax; Odie Payne, dms. Joined Bobby Robinson's labels in 1959 (recording in Chicago, New York and Jackson, MS). Several of Elmore's records were issued as Elmo James and as Elmo(re) James and His Broomdusters. Charter member of the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame in 1980, and inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1992.

Born: Elmore Brooks (stepfather James), January 27, 1918, Richland, Miss. (near Canton).
Died: May 24, 1963, Chicago, Ill (heart attack).
First recordings: Jackson, Miss August 1951 Dust My Broom - Trumpet 146; and Chicago, October 1952 I Believe / I Held My Baby Last Night - Meteor 5000.

Essential CD:
Editor’s choice:
For Collectors:
Blues After Hours - Ace CDCHM 1043 (2005) - reissue of Crown LP plus bonus tracks

First LPs:
Blues After Hours – Crown CLP 5169 (1960)
The Sky Is Crying – Sphere Sound LP SR-7002 (1965)

Reading:

Important Gems:
1952 Please Find My Baby
1953 I Held My Baby Last Night
1953 Whose Muddy Shoes
1953 Hawaiian Boogie (instr)
1954 Make My Dreams Come True
1954 Sho' Nuff I Do
1954 Sun人人
day
1954 Standing At The Crossroads
1955 Late Hours At Midnight
1955 Blues Before Sunrise
1956 Long Tall Woman
1957 The Twelve Year Old Boy
1959 The Sky Is Crying (as Elmo James)
1960 Madison Blues
1960 Stormy Monday Blues
1960 Fine Little Mama
1961 Anna Lee
1961 Look On Yonder Wall
1961 Shake Your Moneymaker
1962 I Need You (Baby)
1963 Mean Mistreatin' Mama
1963 It Hurts Me Too
1963 Something Inside (Of) Me

THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

ELMORE JAMES, vocals/guitar "BIG-SIX"
1. Elmo James (featuring Sonny Boy Williamson, hca)
   - Jackson, MS August 5, 1951: DRC 53 Dust My Broom – Trumpet 146 (#9,1w total)
2. Elmore James and the Broomdusters
   (featuring J. T. Brown, sax; Johnny Jones, pno)
   - Chicago, August 1953:
   Fl 162 Make My Dreams Come True – Flair 1031
3. Elmore James and His Broomdusters (featuring
Maxwell Davis, sax) - Los Angeles, ca August 1954:
Fl 217 Standing At The Crossroads – Flair 1057
4. Elmo James and His Broomdusters
   - Chicago, November 3-4, 1959: FM 133 The Sky Is Crying – Fire 1016
5. Elmore James (featuring Johnny "Big Moose" Walker, pno)
   - New Orleans, ca August 1961: FM 194 Shake Your Moneymaker – Fire 504
6. (featuring Johnny Acey, pno; prob. Jimmy Spruill, gtr)
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

ELMORE JAMES – REPRESENTATIVE CLASSICS 1951-1966

1951: DUST MY BROOM
1952: HELD MY BABY LAST NIGHT
1953: COUNTRY BOOGIE
1954: MAKE MY DREAMS COME TRUE
1955: STANDING AT THE CROSSROADS
1956: LONG TALL WOMAN
1957: THE 12 YEAR OLD BOY
1958: THE SKY IS CRYING
1959: MEAN MISTREATIN' MAMA
1960: SOMETHING INSIDE ME
1961: SHAKE YOUR MONEYMAKER
1965: (rec 1961) / MEAN MISTREATIN' MAMA (rec 1965)
1966: (rec 1960)
Elmo’s Original “International” LPs 1960-1970

(slightly selected; and a great CD)

Crown CLP 5168 (two versions, 1960), and the reissues: Custom CM-2054, United 7716 (two versions, the second shown below)

After United 7716: the French version on BYG 529 004 (1969),
Kent KLP-5022 (mono, KST 522 stereo, 1967), United/Superior US 7743 (reissue),

Ace CDCHM 1043 (2005 - great CD with bonus tracks)

- the issues above are from the Bihari labels – below you’ll find recordings from the Chess and Bobby Robinson labels -

Sue ILP-918 (UK 1964), Sphere Sound SSR-7002 (1965), Sue ILP-927 (UK 1965).
Sphere Sound “I Need You” LP SSR-7008 (1966), Bell MBLL-104 (UK 1968)

Ember EMB 3397 (UK 1968), Blue Horizon “To Know A Man” S7-66230 (UK, 1969), Bell “Elmore James” LP 6037 (UK 1970),
Some interesting new CDs

3CD-set on Not Now (2015)

Universal Music Group (2014), Acrobat (2CD) 2015 (54 tracks)

Three great later CDs

Jasmine 2CD (of 2011), flip of MCA CD "His Best" (9384 of 1997), and Hip-O-Select’s great 5CD “box”

An finally: A great little book (140 pages) covering an overview on The Blues by Elijah Wald.
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

KING OF HARMONICA

The R&B Pioneers Series - Volume Five of twelve
"King of Harmonica" – One of the Chess labels "Big Four" (Muddy, Wolf, Sonny Boy and Little Walter). The most influential harmonica player and a successful Chicago Bar Blues singer and sometimes guitarist. Worked with Jimmy Rogers and Baby Face Leroy and joined Muddy Waters during the late '40s. Arrived in Chicago in 1946 after stints in New Orleans; Helena, Arkansas, and St. Louis. Started his own band in 1952 - the Night Cats - later famous as the Jukes, featuring brothers Louis and David Meyers, gtrs; and Fred Below, dms (who actually were Junior Wells’ “Little Muddy Waters” band). Was later accompanied by a.o. Robert Jnr. Lockwood and Luther Tucker, gtrs. Continued to back Muddy Waters on several occasions during the '50s (especially on most of Muddy’s hit records). Charter member of the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame in 1980, and inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2008.

Walter's pre-"Juke"-recordings
Little Walter J - Chicago 1947
vol with Otthum Brown and Jimmy Rogers, gtrs
711B I Just Keep Loving Her - Ora Nelle 711/Chance 1116
(first by Otthum Brown)
711B I Just Keep Loving Her (alt) - unissued

Sunny Land Slim And Muddy Water - Little Walter vocal
- Chicago, May 14, 1949
vol/cha with Sunnyland Slim, pno/vol-1; Muddy Water(s), gtr; Leroy Foster, gtr; Elga Edmonds, dms
1002A Blue Baby - TempoTone 1002
1002B I Want My Baby - Tempo Tone 1002

Little Walter Trio - Chicago January, 1950
(for Herald, also incl recordings by Foster)
vol/cha-1gtw with Muddy Waters and Jimmy Rogers, gtr; Leroy Foster, gt/dms
H 511 Just Keep Loving Her -1 - Parkway 502/Herald 403
H 517 Moonshine Blues (Moonshine Baby)
- Parkway 502/Savoy 1122
R1356 Muscadine Blues (Take A Little Walk With Me)
- Regal 3296/Herald 403
R1357 Bad Acting Woman - Regal 3296

Muddy Waters - Chicago October 23, 1950
cha with Muddy Waters, gtr, Big Crawford, bs
U 7276 Evan’s Shuffle - Chess 1441 (flip by Muddy Waters)
Note: Walter also did several sessions as sideman for Jimmy Rogers, Muddy Waters, Johnny Shines, Eddie Ware, and Floyd Jones prior to his "Juke" recording.

Essential CDs:
His Best - MCA/Chess CHD 9384 (1997) or Essential Little Walter (2CD) - MCA/Chess CHD2-9342 (1993)
Editor’s choice:
The Chess Years, 1952-1963 (4CD) - Charly CD RED Box 5 (1992) or more recently:
For collectors:
Blues with a Feeling (2CD with rare Chess) - MCA CHD2-9357 (1995)
The Blues World of Little Walter – Delmark DD-648 (1993) with 1950 recordings

LITTLE WALTER, vocals/harmonica "Hi-FIVE"
1. Little Walter & His Night Cats (featuring Muddy Waters, Jimmy Rogers, gtrs) – Chicago, May 12, 1952
   U 7437 Juke – Checker 758 (#1 for 8w, 20w total)
2. Little Walter & His Jukes
   (featuring Jimmy Rogers, Louis Meyers, gtrs; Fred Below, dms)
   - Chicago, July 23, 1953:
     U 4398 Blues With A Feeling – Checker 780 (#2, 11w)
   3. (featuring Robert Jnr Lockwood, Luther Tucker, gtrs)
   - Chicago, October 5, 1954:
     U 4416 Last Night – Checker 805 (#6, 4w)
   4. (featuring Lockwood, Willie Dixon, bs; Below)
   - Chicago, January 25, 1955:
     7777 My Babe – Checker 811 (#1 for 5w, 19w)
5. Little Walter (featuring Lockwood, Tucker)
   - Chicago, December 1959:
     9891 You’re Sweet – unissued, released on Chess CD 9357 in 1995

Records for: Checker 52-66.

Reading:
Blues with a feeling - The Little Walter Story by Tony Glover, Scott Dirks & Ward Gaines (Routledge, 2002)
First LP:
The Best of Little Walter: Chess LP 1428 (1957)
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

R&B Top 10 Hits: (14 of 15 Top 40)
1952 Juke (instr) #1 for 8w (and His Night Cats)
1952 Sad Hours (instr) #2 (and His Night Caps)
1953 Mean Old World #6 (and His Night Caps)
1953 Tell Me Mama #10 (and His Jukes)
1953 Off The Wall (instr) #8
1953 Blues With A Feeling #2
1953 You’re So Fine #2
1954 Oh, Baby #8
1954 You Better Watch Yourself #8
1954 Last Night #6
1955 My Babe #1 for 5w
1955 Roller Coaster (instr) #6
1956 Who #7
1958 Key To The Highway #6

The Ultimate Entertainment:
1948 Blue Baby (Sunnyland Slim & Muddy Water)
1950 Muskadine Blues
1951 Evan’s Shuffle (by Muddy Waters)
1952 Boogie (instr)
1952 Driftin’
1952 Tonight With A Fool
1953 Quarter To Twelve (instr)
1953 That’s It (instr)
1954 I Gotta Find My Baby
1954 Mellow Down Easy
1954 Big Leg Mama
1956 Hate To See You Go
1957 Just A Feeling
1957 Everybody Needs Somebody
1958 Everything’s Gonna Be Alright
1959 You’re Sweet
1960 Just Your Fool
1960 Blue Midnight (instr rec 1952 - orig)
1961 You Don’t Know
1963 Dead Presidents

Little Walter’s Original Chess LPs
The Best of - Chess LP 1428 (1957) / also on Checker 3004 (1964)
Hate To See You Go - LP 1535 (1969)
Boss Blues Harmonica - 2LP 60014 (1972) [reissued as 2LP 202, 1976]
Confessin’ The Blues - LP 416 (1974)
Chess Masters – 2LP 4002 (1981 UK Charly)
Little Walter Vol 2 - 2LP 4011 (1982 UK Charly)

Charly R&B “Red Box” CD Box Set Series Chess/Vee-Jay:
- release of the 6-LP box set CHESS BOX 1, from 1986.
RED BOX 9 - The Vee-Jay Years - Jimmy Reed 1953-1965 [1994] 4CD
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

LITTLE WALTER  Chess/Checker LP Gallery

Chess LP 1428 (1957), Chess LP 1535 (1969), LP 1542 planned for Walter but was unissued, Chess (GRT) CHV 416 (1975)

Checker LP 3004 (reissue of 1428 – 1967), Chess (GRT) 2CH-60014 (1972), CH 50056 (Walter unissued), All Platinum 2ACMB-202 (reissue of 60014 – 1976)


Note: Chess was subsequently sold to GRT, All Platinum, Sugar Hill, and then finally to MCA/Universal (even Charly thought for a while they had license).
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

LITTLE WALTER  Chess/Checker Gallery  -Bootleg LPs & Regular CDs-


MCA/Chess CDs: 9292 "The Best of... vol 2" (1989), 9321 – reissue of 1535 (1990), 9342 (2CD 1993)


LITTLE WALTER Checker Recordings – all in Chicago

A complete Checker/Chess discography

session cont'd
U 4401 Fast Boogie -1 796, LP 9342, # 786, LP 416, #
U 4402 Lights Out -1 793, LP 9357, §
U 4403 Fast Large One -1 CD 9342, §
U 4404 You're So Fine (#2) 786, LP 1428, #, § CD 9357

with
David Myers and Robert Jr Lockwood,gs; Willie Dixon,b; Fred Below,d
Febr 22, 1954
U 7603 Come Back Baby CD 9357
U 7604 Rocker -1 793, LP 416
U 7605 I Love You So (aka Oh Baby) CD 9357
U 7608 Oh Baby (alt.o.a.) (#8) 793, LP 1535, # unissued
add Otis Spann,p
May 22, 1954
U 7653 I Got To Find My Baby 1013, LP 1535, 416, # LP 4167, CD 9340
U 7654 Big Leg Mama -1 CD 9357
July 1, 1954
U 7669 Mercy Babe (aka My Baby) CD 9357
U 7670 Last Night (#1st verse) Argo LP4042, CD9342 (#)

with
David Myers,g; Robert Jr Lockwood or Luther Tucker,g; Willie Dixon,b; Fred Below,d
July 14, 1954
U 7673 You'd Better Watch Yourself (#8) 799, LP 1428, #
U 7674 Blue Light (aka Blue Lights) -1 as above

with
Robert Jr Lockwood and Luther Tucker,g; Willie Dixon,b; Fred Below,d
October 5, 1954
U 4416 Last Night (#6) 805, LP 1428, §
U 4417 Mellow Down Easy 805, LP 1535, § CD 1226360
U 4415 Instrumental -1

with
Luther Tucker,g; Bo Diddley,g-2; Robert Jr Lockwood,p-2; Willie Dixon,b; Leonard Gaston
January 25, 1955
811, LP 2-60014 (UK)
811, 1428, #, §

with
Luther Tucker,g; Robert Jr Lockwood,gs; Willie Dixon,b; Fred Below,d
April 28, 1955
U 7827 Roller Coaster (#6) -1, -2 817, LP 1535, #, §
U 7828 I Got To Go -o 817, LP 416
U 7888 (I Hate To See You Go -o) 825, LP 1535, #

Note: Last title aka "My Desire"; edited on August 12, 1955 and is extended on CD 9357.

with
Luther Tucker,g; Robert Jr Lockwood,gs; Willie Dixon,b; Fred Below,d
July 14, 1955
U 7674 Little Girl CD 9342 (#)
U 7675 Crazy For My Baby CD 9357
U 7676 Can't Stop Loving You CD 9357
U 7996 One More Chance With You December 1955
838, LP 416
833, CD 9357

with
Luther Tucker,g; Willie Dixon,b; Leonard Gaston; Bo Diddley,g-2; Robert Jr Lockwood,g-2; Luther Tucker,g-2; Willie Dixon,b;
March 9, 1956
833, CD 9357
834, LP 2-60014

8068 Flying Saucer -1
Note: From single 845 the Jukes were no longer credited.

LITTLE WALTER with same acc.
8191 It's Too Late Brother July 27, 1956
8192 Teenage Beat -1 852, LP 2-60014, #
8193 Take Me Back 845, LP 2-60014
8194 Just A Feeling 845, LP 2-60014

THE BLUES GIANTS OF THE 1950s

Muddy Waters - Checker/Chess

General note: Discography based on "Blues Discography - the classic years" (Fancault-McGrath - Eyeball 2012), Les Fancault’s "Chess Labels Discography" (1989); Glover-Orris-Gaines book "Blues With A Feeling - the Little Walter Story" (2002), and their presentation on Mr-O-Select's terrific 5CD set (as above). All recordings Litt. Walter, vcl & His Night Caps

Muddy Waters,gr with
Little Walter,hca; Big Crawford,b; Elga Edmonds,d
U 7276 Evan's Shuffle (aka Elmo's Boogie) -1
October 23, 1950
Chess 1441, LP B2022

LITTLE WALTER & His Night Cats with
Muddy Waters and Jimmy Rogers,gs; Elga Edmonds,d
May 12, 1952
U 7437 Juke (aka Your Cat Will Play) (#1) -1
alt. take o.a.
758, LP 1428, § CD 9357, #
U 7438 Can't Hold On Much Longer alt. take o.a.
758, LP 1428, § CD 9357, #

LITTLE WALTER & His Night Caps with
Louis Myers and David Myers,gs; Fred Below,d (some indications give same line up as above)
October, 1952
U 1050 Blue Midnight -1
915, LP 1535
alt. take o.a.
CD 9357, #
1051 Boogie -1
914, LP 1535
CD 9342 (#)
1052 Mean Old World (#6)
764, LP 1428, #, §
1053 Sad Hours (#2)
as above, #, §

LITTLE WALTER & His Jukes with
Louis Myers and David Myers,gs; Big Crawford,b; Fred Below,d
ca January 1953
U 4318 Fast Boogie -1
alt. take o.a.
CD 9340
914, LP 41660
alt. take o.a.
CD 1226360
914, LP 41660
CD 9340, #
4319 Don't Need No Horse -1
770, LP 1428, #, §
4320 Driftin' alt. take o.a.
CD 9357
CD 1226360

with
Henry Gray,p-2; Louis Myers and David Myers,gs; Willie Dixon,b; Fred Below,d
March 1953
U 4343 Don't Have To Hunt No More -1 (aka Don't Need To Hunt No More)
767, REDBOXU (UK)
U 4344 Crazy Legs (aka Latin Beat) -1
986, LP 416
U 4345 Tonight With A Fool -2
767, CD 9357
(aka I Wished A Had Someone)
U 4348 Off The Wall -1 (aka #8)
770, LP 1428, #, §
alt. take o.a.
CD 4034
4349 Tell Me Mama (#19)
770, LP 1428, #, §

with
Louis Myers and David Myers,gs; Willie Dixon,b; Fred Below,d.
June 1953
U 4394 Quarter To Twelve -2
780, LP 416, #
U 4395 That's It -1
780, LP 1428, #, §
U 4398 Blues With A Feeling (#2) alt. take o.a.
780, LP 1428, #, §
U 4399 Last Boogie -1
825, CD 9357, #, §
U 4400 Too Late

with
David Myers and Robert Jr Lockwood,gs; Willis Dixon,b; Fred Below,d
July 23, 1953
U 4394 Quarter To Twelve -2
780, LP 416, #
U 4395 That's It -1
780, LP 1428, #, §
U 4398 Blues With A Feeling (#2) alt. take o.a.
780, LP 1428, #, §
U 4399 Last Boogie -1
825, CD 9357, #, §
U 4400 Too Late

Chess 7095, LP 1428
795, LP 1535, # unissued
1013, LP 1535, 416, # LP 4167, CD 9340
CD 9357
786, LP 1428, #, § CD 9357
817, LP 1535, #, §
817, LP 416
825, LP 1535, #
955, LP 1535
852, LP 2-60014, #
845, LP 2-60014
845, LP 2-60014
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

LITTLE WALTER
Robert Jr Lockwood, g; Luther Tucker, g/b; Fred Below, d
March 5, 1957
8433 Nobody But You -2 859, LP 1535
8435 Temperature (first version) REDBox5 (UK)
8436 Shake Dancer 1-2 1071, LP 2-60014
8437 Everybody Needs Somebody 859, LP 1535

with
Luther Tucker and Jimmie Lee Robinson, g/s; Willie Dixon, b; Fred Below, d
June 20, 1957
8525 Temperature 867, LP 416
alt. take a.a. CD 9357
alt. take a.a. CD 1226360
alt. take 30 of above REDBox5 (UK)
take 35-28 of above REDBox5 (UK)
8526 Ah! Baby 945, CD 9357,
alt. take a.a. LP 2-60014
8527 I’ve Had My Fun 945, LP 1535,
alt. take a.a. CD 9342
alt. take a.a. CD 1226360

with
Lafayette Leake, p; Luther Tucker and Jimmie Lee Robinson, g/s; Willie Dixon, b; Francis Clay, d
January 1958
8644 The Toddle (aka The Tottle) -1 890, LP 416
8645 Confessin’ The Blues as above, #, §

with
Otis Spann, p; Muddy Waters and Luther Tucker, g/s; Willie Dixon, b; George Hunter, t; otis Spann, g
August 1958
8981 Key To The Highway (#6) 904, LP 1535,
alt. take a.a. 904, LP 416
8982 Rock Bottom -1 alt. take a.a. CD 9357
9141 Walkin’ On (alt a.a.) CD 9342 (#)

with
Otis Spann, p; Luther Tucker, g; Andrew Stephens, b; George Hunter, d
January 1959
9196 You Gonna Be Sorry (Someday) (aka Someday Baby You Gonna Be Sorry) CD 9342
alt. take a.a. (aka Someday Baby) CD 9357,
alt. take a.a. CD 1226360
9197 One Of These Mornings -1 CD 1226360

with
Luther Tucker and Fred Robinson, g/s; Willie Dixon, b; George Hunter, d
February 25, 1959
9243 Baby CD 9357
9244 My Baby Is Sweeter (alt a.a.) 919, LP 1535
alt. take a.a. CD 9357
9245 Crazy Mixed Up World 919, LP 416,
alt. take a.a. CD 9357
9246 Worried Life (aka Someday Baby) 9342, #
alt. take a.a. CD 9357

with
Otis Spann, p; Luther Tucker and Fred Robinson, g/s; Willie Dixon, b; Bill Stepney, d
July 21, 1959
9619 Everything Gonna Be Alright (25) 930, LP 1535,
alt. take a.a. (take 1) CD 1226360
alt. take a.a. CD 9357
alt. take a.a. CD 1226360
alt. take a.a. CD 1226360
9620 Mean Old Frisco 1117, LP 416
alt. take a.a. CD 9357
9621 Back Track -1 930, LP2-60014,

with
Luther Tucker and Fred Robinson, g/s; Willie Dixon, b; George Hunter, d
August 12, 1959
9654 One Of These Mornings CD 9357
9655 Blue And Lonesome alt. take a.a. CD 9357

with
Otis Spann, p; Luther Tucker and Fred Robinson, g/s; George Hunter, d
November 1959
9810 Me And Pinkey Brown CD 9357
9811 Break It Up as above

with
Luther Tucker and poss. Fred Robinson, g/s; Willie Dixon, b; George Hunter, d
December 1959
9889 Going Down Slow CD 9357
9890 My Desire unissued
9891 You’re Sweet CD 9357

Note: These recordings may be from the April 28, 1955 session, edited and poss. dubbed.

with
Otis Spann, p; Luther Tucker and Fred Robinson, g/s; Willie Dixon, b; George Hunter, d
December 1960
10593 I Don’t Play CD 9342 (#)
10594 As Long As I Have You CD 9357
10595 You Don’t Know CD 9357
10596 Just Your Fool CD 9357,

with
Jarett Gibson and Donald Hankins, saxes; Billy Emerson, org (not on-2); Buddy Guy, g; Jack Meyers, b; Al Duncan, d
February 5, 1966
12168 Up The Line -2 CD 1004, LP 416,
12169 I’m A Business Man 1081, CD 9342 (#)
12170 Dead Presidents 1043, CD 9342 (#)
12171 Southern Feeling -1 CD 9357

with
J.T. Brown, ten, sax; Lee Jackson, g; Junior Petiss, b; George Cook, d
March 25, 1966
14573 Back In The Alley -1 CD 1226360
14574 I Feel So Bad (take 1) as above
14575 I Feel So Bad (take 2) as above
14576 Chicken Shack -1 CD 9357

Note: Little Walter also recorded on the “Super Blues” Checker LP 3008 with Muddy Waters and Bo Diddley; featuring Otis Spann, Buddy Guy, Sonny Wimberley, and Frank Kirkland on January 4, 1967. That session also featured “Juke”, “Feel So Bad”, and “Make It Alright” (issued on CD 1226360).

Peak positions on any of Billboard’s R&B Charts noted

The R&B Pioneers Series. - Volume Five of twelve
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A super-great 4CD-box, issued 1992 on MCA/Chess CHD4-9340, produced and compiled by Andy McKaie and Mary Katherine Aldin, featuring the great blues artists’ classics, but also several very rare (and even unissued) recordings and lots of not so well known artists. Terrific presentations of all tracks in chronolgy order in a supersized bookklet with lots of rare images. A must in any proper blues collection!
LITTLE WALTER & JIMMY REED – TEN REPRESENTATIVE SINGLES EACH

1952
1952
1953
1953

1954
1955
1956
1957

1958
1960
1953
1954

1955
1957
1957
1959

1959
1960
1962
1963
“Mr. Luck” 3CD-set issued in August 2017 by Craft Recordings.
**JIMMY REED**

"Boss Man of the Blues" - "Cousin Peaches". Popular and distinctive guitarist/harmonica player and Chicago blues singer in the Down South Louisiana/Mississippi "swamp" style. Came to Chicago from Mississippi in 1948 (after having lived in Chicago before the war and returned to Leland after military services), and settled in Gary, Indiana in 1949. Worked with San Francisco as base from 1970. Especially worked with Eddie Taylor, Lefty Bates and later Phil Upchurch and Wayne Bennett, gtr; Earl Phillips and later Al Duncan, dms in Chicago. Was Vivian Bracken-Carter’s (of Vee-Jay) most consistent act, produced by Jimmy Bracken and Calvin Carter and later by manager Al Smith. Jimmy actually sings "Baby Why You Wanna Let Go" on his hit "Baby What You Want Me To Do". Became the most successful of the blues singers during the late ’50s and early ’60s. Charter member of the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame in 1980, and inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1991.

**Born:** Mathis James Reed, September 6, 1925, Dunleith, Miss. (near Leland).

**Died:** from epileptic seizure August 29, 1976, Oakland, Calif.

**First recordings:** as hca-playing sideman (with Eddie Taylor) on John Brun’s Gary Stomp (instrumental)/Tough Times - Parrot (1953); himself: Chicago June 6, 1953 High And Lonesome / Roll And Rhumba - Chance 1142/VeeJay 100.

**Records for:** VeeJay 53-65, Bluesway 66-68, Blues on Blues 69-70.

**Essential CD:** Blues Masters/The Very Best of... - Rhino R2 79802 (2000) or Best of the Vee-Jay Years - Shout!Factory 8266631063 (2007) or Boss Man (2CD) - Recall (UK) SMCD 232 (1999) - 36 great Vee-Jay tracks in chronorder

**Editor’s choice:** The Vee-Jay Years (6CD 1953-1965) - Charly CD RED Box 9 (1994) or The Essential Boss Man (3CD) – Charly SNAJ28CD (2004)

**For Collectors:**

- Jimmy Reed at Carnegie Hall - Shout!Factory (Vee-Jay) VF 826663-10645 (2007)

**Reading:**

- Big Boss Man - The Life and Music of Bluesman Jimmy Reed by Will Romano (Backbeat, US 2006)

**First LP:**

I’m Jimmy Reed – Vee-Jay LP 1004 (1958)

**JIMMY REED, vocals/harmonica/guitar “BIG-SIX”**

1. **Jimmy Reed and His Trio** (featuring Eddie Taylor, John Littlejohn, gtrs; Albert King, dms) – Chicago, December 29-30, 1953:
   - 53-120 You Don’t Have To Go – Vee-Jay 119 (#5, 15w total)
   - 53-108 I Don’t Go For That – Vee-Jay 118 (#5, 15w)

2. **Jimmy Reed** (featuring Eddie Taylor, gtr; Earl Phillips, dms)
   - Chicago, October 3, 1956:
   - 56-551 You’ve Got Me Dizzy – Vee-Jay 226 (#3, 9w)

3. **(featuring Mary Reed, co-vcl; Lee Baker, Lefty Bates, Eddie Taylor, gtrs)**
   - Chicago, August 7, 1959:
   - 59-1211 Baby What You Want Me To Do – Vee-Jay 333 (#10, 6w)

4. **(featuring Mary Reed, co-vcl; Lee Baker, Lefty Bates, gtrs; Willie Dixon, bs)**
   - Chicago, March 29, 1960:
   - 60-1418 Big Boss Man – Vee-Jay 380 (#13, 8w)

5. **(featuring Mary, Bates, Phillips)**
   - Chicago, 1961:
   - 61-2070 Bright Lights Big City – Vee-Jay 398 (#3, 13w)

6. **(featuring Jimmy Reed Jnr, Lefty Bates, gtrs; Al Duncan, dms)**
   - Chicago, 1963:
   - 63-3067 Shame Shame Shame – Vee-Jay 509

**R&B Top 10 Hits:** (10 of 20 Top 40)

- 1954 You Don’t Have To Go #5
- 1955 Ain’t That Lovin’ You Baby #3
- 1956 Can’t Stand To See You Go #10
- 1957 You’ve Got Me Dizzy #3
- 1957 Little Rain #7
- 1957 Honey, Where You Going #10
- 1958 Honest I Do #4
- 1958 I’m Gonna Get My Baby #5
- 1959 Baby What You Want Me To Do #10
- 1961 Bright Lights Big City #3

**Listen and Enjoy :**

- 1953 High And Lonesome
- 1955 I Don’t Go For That
- 1958 Goin’ To New York
- 1959 Take Out Some Insurance
- 1959 Hush Hush
- 1960 Big Boss Man
- 1961 What’s Wrong Baby
- 1962 Too Much
- 1962 Down In Mississippi
- 1963 I’ll Change My Style
- 1963 Shame Shame Shame
- 1964 Wear Something Green
- 1964 I’m Going Upside Your Head
- 1965 I’m The Man Down There
- 1966 Crazy ’Bout Oklahoma
- 1968 Down In Virginia

**Jimmy’s original Vee-Jay albums:**

- 1954 - I’m Jimmy Reed (1958)
- 1958 - Rockin’ With Reed (1959)
- 1962 - Rockin’ With Reed (1962)
- 1966 - I’m Jimmy Reed (1966)
- 1968 - I’m The Man Down There (1968)
- 1974 - The Legend, The Man (1965)
- 1975 - Blues is My Business (Dynasty 1976)
- 1975 - Jimmy Reed Original Album Classics (1962)
- 1975 - Jimmy Reed Original Album Classics (1963)
- 1975 - Jimmy Reed Original Album Classics (1966)
- 1975 - Jimmy Reed Original Album Classics (1964)
- 1975 - Jimmy Reed Original Album Classics (1959)

**The R&B Pioneers Series - Volume Five of twelve**

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JIMMY REED’S original LPs from mid 1963 to 1969+

Note: Earlier Vee-Jay LPs – see pages 40-41. LP 1035 2-set reissued on Exodus EX2-307 (1966). LP 1039 reissued on Buddah 4004 in 1969. Several Jimmy Reed LPs appeared on different Vee-Jay “sub-labels” during the 60s and 70s. Charly Records in the UK have ever since the 1980s issued lots and lots of LPs and CDs (also featuring in US unissued recordings).
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

JIMMY REED’S US Albums after 1969


Some of the later JR CDs

THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

TWO EARLY CLASSIC BLUES LPs

Little Walter and Howlin’ Wolf presented, with their first LPs on Chess, some of the most famous and most important Blues albums. Both albums were compilations of their most famous early singles. Here they are with track order and sessions. Walter’s singles’ cat.no. are Checker, and Wolf’s are Chess. All recordings made in Chicago (unless otherwise noted).

Chess (Checker) LP 1428 (1957)

Tracks:
My Babe / Sad Hours / You’re So Fine / Last Night / Blues With A Feeling / Can’t Hold Out Much Longer / Juke / Mean Old World / Off The Wall / You Better Watch Yourself / Blue Lights / Tell Me Mamma

Discography:
Little Walter/vcl & His Night Cats: Muddy Waters and Jimmy Rogers, gtrs; Elga Edmonds, dms
U 7437 - Juke (Your Cat Will Play) May 12, 1952
U 7438 - Can’t Hold Out Much Longer Oct 1952
Little Walter/vcl & His Night Cats: Louis Myers and David Myers, gtrs; Fred Below, dms
October 1952
C1052-2 - Mean Old World 1:764
C1053-2 - Sad Hours 1:764
Little Walter/vcl & His Jukes: Louis Myers and David Myers, gtrs; Willie Dixon, bsg; Fred Below, dms
July 23, 1953
U 4348 - Off The Wall 770
U 4349 - Tell Me Mama 1:770
Little Walter/vcl & His Jukes: Louis Myers and David Myers, gtrs; Fred Below, dms
July 14, 1954
U 7673 - You’d Better Watch Yourself 1:795
U 7674 - Blue Light 1:795
Note the differing spellings contra the LP on 1428, 7673 and 7674.
Little Walter/vcl & His Jukes: Robert Jr Lockwood and Luther Tucker, gtrs; Willie Dixon, bsg; Fred Below, dms
October 5, 1954
U 4416 - Last Night 805
This song was also recorded at the previous session.
Little Walter/vcl & His Jukes: Leonard Gaston, gtr; Robert Jr Lockwood, gtr-bsg; Willie Dixon, bsg; Fred Below, dms; ensemble vcl
January 25, 1955
777 - My Babe 811

Chess LP 1434 (1958)

Tracks:
Moanin’ At Midnight / How Many More Years / Smokestack Lightnin’ / Baby How Long / No Place To Go / All Night Boogie / Evil / I’m Leavin’ You / Moanin’ For My Baby / I Asked For Water (She Gave Me Gasoline) / Forty- Four / Somebody In My Home

Discography:
The Howlin’ Wolf, vcl/hca; Ike Turner, pno; 1 - Willie Johnson, gtr; Willie Steele, dms
Memphis July 1951
Chess LP 1434
U 83 - Moanin’ At Midnight Chess 1479 (R&B #10)
U 84 - How Many More Years -1 1479 (R&B #4)
The Howlin’ Wolf, vcl/hca; Albert Williams, pno; - Willie Johnson, gtr; unknown bs and dms
Memphis 1953
U 7518 - All Night Long 1557
Note the differing title contra the LP.
The Howlin’ Wolf, vcl/hca; Otis Spann, pno; Lee Cooper, gtr; Willie Dixon, bsg; Earl Phillips, dms
Chicago March 1954
U 7518 - No Place To Go 1566
The Howlin’ Wolf, vcl/hca; Otis Spann, pno; Jody Williams, bsg, and Hubert Sumlin, gtrs; Willie Dixon, bsg; Earl Phillips, dms
May 25, 1954
U 7657 - Baby How Long 1575
U 7658 - Evil Is Going On 1575
7658 titled “Evil” on LP.
Howlin’ Wolf, vcl/hca; with same as previous session
October 1954
U 7741 - Forty Four 1584
Howlin’ Wolf, vcl/hca; Hosea Lee Kennard, pno; Willie Johnson and Hubert Sumlin, bsg; Willie Dixon, bsg; Earl Phillips, dms
January 1956
U 7985 - Smoke Stack Lightnin’ 1618 (R&B #8)
Note the differing spelling contra the LP.
Howlin’ Wolf, vcl/hca; Hosea Lee Kennard, pno; Willie Johnson and Smokey Smothers, gtrs; Willie Dixon, bsg; Earl Phillips, dms
January 1956
8175 - I Asked For Water (She Gave Me Gasoline) 1632 (R&B #9)
Howlin’ Wolf, vcl/hca; Addiph ‘Billy’ Duncan, tensax; Hosea Lee Kennard, pno; Willie Johnson and Smokey Smothers, gtrs; Alfried Elkins, bs; Earl Phillips, dms
June 24, 1957
8530 - Somebody In Me Home 1668
Howlin’ Wolf, vcl/hca; Abe Locke, tensax; Hosea Lee Kennard, pno; Jody Williams and Hubert Sumlin, gtrs; Alfred Elkins, bs; Earl Phillips, dms
April 3, 1958
8775-1 - Moanin’ For My Baby 1695
Howlin’ Wolf, vcl/hca; Hosea Lee Kennard, pno; L.D. McGhee and Hubert Sumlin, gtrs; S.P. Leary, dms
ca September 1958
9150 - I’m Leaving You 1712
Muddy and Jimmy hit the LP-market with a Big Bang – presenting two classic Blues LPs, which still are among their fans’ most appreciated albums. Here they are with track order and sessions. Muddy on Chess and Jimmy on Vee-Jay. The four bonus tracks on Reed’s re-issue on Charly (UK) SNAP 131 CD (2003) are marked *. All recordings made in Chicago. Note differing spellings.

**Chess LP 1427 (1957)**

**Tracks:**
- Hoochie Coochie Man / I’m Ready / Rollin’ Stone / I Just Want To Make Love To You / Honey Bee / She Moves Me / I Can’t Be Satisfied / I Want You To Love Me / Long Distance Call / Standing Around Crying / Still A Fool / Louisiana Blues (Note the differing titles on some single issues)

**Discography:**
Muddy Waters;vcl/gtr with Rythm (aka) Accompaniment: Ernest Big Crawford,b.s. 
- U 7112 I Can’t Be Satisfied ca December 1947 Aristocrat 1305

Muddy Waters;vcl/gtr 
- U 7377 Robin Stone Chess 1426

Muddy Waters;vcl/gtr, Little Walter,h.c.a, Ernest Big Crawford,b.s. 
- U 7275 Louisiana Blues October 23, 1950 1441 (R&B #10)

Muddy Waters;vcl/gtr and His Guitar; Little Walter,h.c.a or gtr-1, Ernest Big Crawford,b.s 
- U 7304 Long Distance Call January 22, 1951 1452 (R&B #9)

Muddy Waters;vcl/gtr and His Guitar; Little Walter,h.c.a or gtr-1; Jimmy Rogers replaces Muddy,gtr-1; Ernest Big Crawford,b.s; Elga Edmonds or Len Chess,d.m.s. 
- U 7306 Honey Bee July 11, 1951 1468 (R&B #10)

Muddy Waters;vcl/gtr and His Guitar; Little Walter,h.c.a or gtr-1; Jimmy Rogers replaces Muddy,gtr-1; Ernest Big Crawford,b.s; Elga Edmonds or Len Chess,d.m.s. 
- U 7358 She Moves Me August 17, 1951 1490 (R&B #9)

Muddy Waters;vcl/gtr and His Guitar; Junior Wells,h.c.a; Jimmy Rogers,gtr; Elga Edmonds,d.m.s 
- U 7477 Standing Around Crying September 17, 1952 1526

Muddy Waters;vcl/gtr and His Guitar; Otis Spann,pno; Little Walter,h.c.a; Jimmy Rogers,gtr; Elga Edmonds,d.m.s 
- U 7552 Mad Love September 24, 1953 1550 (R&B #6)

Titled ‘I Want You To Love Me’ on LP.

Muddy Waters;vcl/gtr and His Guitar; Otis Spann,pno; Little Walter,h.c.a; Jimmy Rogers,gtr; Elga Edmonds,d.m.s 
- U 7589 I’m Your Hoochie Cooche Man January 7, 1954 1560 (R&B #3)

Some pressings titled ‘I’m Your Hoochie Cooche Man’. On LP it is titled ‘Hoochie Coochie Man’.

Muddy Waters;vcl/gtr and His Guitar; Otis Spann,pno; Little Walter,h.c.a; Jimmy Rogers,gtr; Elga Edmonds,d.m.s 
- U 7630 Just Make Love To Me January 7, 1954 1571 (R&B #4)

Titled ‘I Just Want To Make Love To You’ on LP.

Muddy Waters;vcl/gtr and His Guitar; Otis Spann,pno; Little Walter,h.c.a; Jimmy Rogers,gtr; Willie Dixon,b.s,Fred Below,m.d.s. 
- U 7697 I’m Ready September 1, 1954 1597 (R&B #4)

**Vee-Jay LP 1004 (1958)**

**Tracks:**
- Honest I Do / Go On To School / My First Plea / Boogie In The Dark / You Got Me Crying / Ain’t That Lovin’ You Baby // You Got Me Dizzy / Little Rain / Can’t Stand To See You Go / Roll And Rhumba / You’re Something Else / You Don’t Have To Go

**Discography:**
Jimmy Reed;vcl/hca/gtr and His Trio; John Brim,gtr; unkn b.s; Albert King or Morris Winkerson,d.m.s
- 53-104 * High And Lonesome -1 Pos 1953 June 6, 1953
- 53-107 Roll And Rhumba Pos 1953 June 6, 1953

Jimmy Reed;vcl/hca/gtr and His Trio; Eddie Taylor and John Littlejohn,gtrs; unkn bs; Albert King,d.m.s 
- 53-120 You Don’t Have To Go -1 Vee-Jay 119 (R&B #5) Pos 1954 December 29, 1953

- 53-121 Boogie In The Dark 119 Vee-Jay 119 (R&B #5) Pos 1954 December 29, 1953

Jimmy Reed;vcl/hca/gtr; Henry Gray,pno; W.C. Dalton,gtr; Milton Rector;b.s; Earl Phillips,d.m.s 
- 55-294 * She Don’t Want Me No More 153 Vee-Jay 119 (R&B #5) Pos 1955 July 16, 1955

- 55-295 * Come On Baby issued on VJ LP 7303 (1976)

Jimmy Reed;vcl/hca/gtr; Eddie Taylor,gtr; Vernell Fournier,d.m.s 
- 55-383 Ain’t That Lovin’ You Baby December 5, 1955 168 (R&B #3) Vee-Jay 119 (R&B #5) Pos 1955

- 55-384 Can’t Stand To See You Go 186 (R&B #10) Vee-Jay 119 (R&B #5) Pos 1955

Jimmy Reed;vcl/hca/gtr; Eddie Taylor,gtr; Vernell Fournier,d.m.s 
- 56-486 My First Plea June 11, 1956 203 Vee-Jay 119 (R&B #5) Pos 1956

- 56-551 You’ve Got Me Dizzy October 3, 1956 226 (R&B #3) Vee-Jay 119 (R&B #5) Pos 1956

- 56-552 * Honey Don’t Let Me Go January 9, 1957 226 (R&B #7) Vee-Jay 119 (R&B #5) Pos 1956

- 57-593 Little Rain December 12, 1956 237 (R&B #7) Vee-Jay 119 (R&B #5) Pos 1956

- 57-663 Honest I Do -1 January 9, 1957 253 (R&B #4) Vee-Jay 119 (R&B #5) Pos 1956

- 58-810 You’re Something Else December 12, 1956 270 Vee-Jay 119 (R&B #5) Pos 1956


- 58-862 You Got Me Crying -1 275 Vee-Jay 119 (R&B #5) Pos 1956

**THE Blues Giants of the 1950s**

the “KING” & the “BOSS” of Chicago Blues – their first LPs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record Label</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tracks</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chess LP 1427</td>
<td>1957</td>
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</tr>
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</table>
The Blues Giants of the 1950s

Three MORE of the EARLY CLASSIC BLUES LPs

Vee-Jay LP 1022 (mid/late 1960) and 1025 (early 1961)

**Tracks:**
1022  Baby What You Want Me To Do / Found Love / Meet Me / I Was So Wrong / Going By The River Part 2 / Big Boss Man / Hush-Hush / Where Can You Be / I'm Nervous / Going By The River Part 1 / I Ain't Got You / Come Love.  1025  Close Together / Got Me Chasing You / Want To Be With You Baby / Jimmy's Rock / Tell The World I Do // You Know You're Looking Good / I've Got The Blues / Laughing At The Blues / Down The Road / Ain't Gonna Cry No More / You're My Baby

**Discography:**

Jimmy Reed, vcl/hca/gtr; Henry Grey, pno; W.C. Dalton, g; Milton Concolino, b; Earl Phillips, d
55-293  I Ain't Got You  Chicago July 18, 1955
59-1103  I'm Nervous  March 26, 1959
59-1121  Baby What You Want Me To Do  August 7, 1959
59-1215  Going By The River part 2  September 29, 1959
59-1250  I Was So Wrong  March 29, 1960
59-1251  Where Can You Be  August 25, 1959
59-1294  Hush-Hush  March 29, 1960
59-1298  I'm so Wrong  March 29, 1960
59-1319  Found Love  March 29, 1960
60-1418  Come Love  June 29, 1960
60-1419  Big Boss Man  June 29, 1960
60-1428  Meet Me  June 29, 1960
60-1544  I've Got The Blues  June 29, 1960
60-1547  Got Me Chasing You  June 29, 1960
60-1548  Down The Road  June 29, 1960
60-1549  Jimmy's Rock  June 29, 1960
60-1550  Tell The World I Do  June 29, 1960
60-1551  You're My Baby  June 29, 1960
60-1553  Ain't Gonna Cry No More  June 29, 1960
60-1555  Close Together  June 29, 1960
60-1711  Laughing At The Blues  June 29, 1960

Chess LP 1469 (1962)

**Tracks:**
Shake For Me / The Red Rooster / You'll Be Mine / Who's Been Talkin' / Wang-Dang-Doodle / Little Baby // Spoonful / Going Down Slow / Down In The Bottom / Back Door Man / Howlin' For My Baby / Tell Me

**Discography:**

Howlin' Wolf, vcl/hca; Adolph "Billy" Duncan, t; Hosea Lee Kennard, pno; Willie Johnson and Ollie "Smokey" Smothers, g; Alfred Ellis, b; Earl Phillips, d
1958  Who's Been Talking  Chicago June 24, 1957
1959  Tell Me  Chicago June 24, 1957
8528  Howlin' Wolf's 3rd LP  Chicago June 24, 1957
1960  Howlin' For My Baby  Chicago June 24, 1957
8529  Howlin' Wolf  Chicago June 24, 1957
10264  Howlin' Wolf  Chicago June 24, 1957

Note the differing spellings in the singles LP.

Howlin' Wolf, vcl/hca; Adolph "Billy" Duncan, t; Hosea Lee Kennard, pno; Willie Johnson and Ollie "Smokey" Smothers, g; Alfred Ellis, b; Earl Phillips, d
1960  Howlin' For My Baby  Chicago June 24, 1957
10265  Howlin' For My Baby  Chicago June 24, 1957
10266  Howlin' For My Baby  Chicago June 24, 1957

Note the differing spellings of the singles LP.

Howlin' Wolf, vcl/hca; Adolph "Billy" Duncan, t; Hosea Lee Kennard, pno; Willie Johnson and Ollie "Smokey" Smothers, g; Alfred Ellis, b; Earl Phillips, d
1960  Howlin' For My Baby  Chicago June 24, 1957
10267  Howlin' For My Baby  Chicago June 24, 1957
10268  Howlin' For My Baby  Chicago June 24, 1957

Note the differing spellings in the singles LP.

Howlin' Wolf, vcl/hca; Adolph "Billy" Duncan, t; Hosea Lee Kennard, pno; Willie Johnson and Ollie "Smokey" Smothers, g; Alfred Ellis, b; Earl Phillips, d
1960  Howlin' For My Baby  Chicago June 24, 1957
10269  Howlin' For My Baby  Chicago June 24, 1957
10270  Howlin' For My Baby  Chicago June 24, 1957

Note the differing spellings in the singles LP.

Howlin' Wolf, vcl/hca; Adolph "Billy" Duncan, t; Hosea Lee Kennard, pno; Willie Johnson and Ollie "Smokey" Smothers, g; Alfred Ellis, b; Earl Phillips, d
1960  Howlin' For My Baby  Chicago June 24, 1957
10271  Howlin' For My Baby  Chicago June 24, 1957
10272  Howlin' For My Baby  Chicago June 24, 1957

Note the differing spellings in the singles LP.
The Blues Giants of the 1950s

The original “REAL FOLK BLUES” LPs

Cashing in on the successful European tours of “The American Folk Blues Festival” (the first tour was originally acuully titled “The American Negro Blues Festival”), Chess issued their first two “Folk Blues” LPs by their most popular blues performers – Muddy and Wolf. Here they are, with track order and singles discography, plus the bonus tracks from later CD issues (only Wolf had bonus). The LPs covered the two giants’ whole careers on Chess. The third LP in this series was LP 1503 Sonny Boy Williamson (in Europe as “In Memorium”). All recordings made in Chicago. Note differing spellings. Imagery are the CD re-issues.

Chess LP 1501 (1965) - CHD 9274, 1988

Tracks:
Mannish Boy / Screamin’ And Crying / Just To Be With You / Walking In The Park / Walking Blues / Canary Bird / Same Thing / Gypsy Women / Rollin’ And Tumblin’ / Forty Days And Forty Nights / Little Geneva / You Can’t Lose What You Ain’t Never Had

Discography:
Muddy Waters,vcl with Sunny Land Slim.pno; Ernest Big Crawford.b
U 7558 Gypsy Woman Chicago ca September 1947
Muddy Waters,vcl/gtr; Big Crawford.b U 7199 Little Geneva July 12, 1949
Muddy Waters,vcl; Big Crawford.b U 7200 Canary Bird August 1949
Muddy Waters,vcl/gtr and His Guitar; Little Johnny Jones.pno; Jimmy Rogers.g; Leroy Foster.d U 7215 Screamin’ And Crying ca September 1949
Muddy Waters,vcl/gtr; Big Crawford.b U 7235 Rollin’ And Tumblin’ Part 1 February 1950
Muddy Waters,vcl/gtr and His Guitar; Junior Wells.hca, Jimmy Rogers.g; Willie Dixon.b; Fred Below.d; chorus U 7846 Mannish Boy Chicago May 24, 1955
Note the differing spelling on LP.
Muddy Waters,vcl/gtr and his Guitar; Little Walter.hca; Otis Spann.pno; Pat Hare and Hubert Sumlin.g; Willie Dixon.b; Fred Below.d 8012 Forty Days & Forty Nights February 2, 1956
Muddy Waters,vcl/gtr and his Guitar; Otis Spann.pno; Pat Hare and Hubert Sumlin.g; Willie Dixon.b; Ode Payne.d 8013 June 29, 1956
Muddy Waters,vcl/gtr; Willie Dixon.b; Francis Clay or George Hunter.d 8147 Just To Be With You August 1958
Muddy Waters,vcl/gtr; Little Walter.hca; Otis Spann.pno; Pat Hare and Luther Tucker.g; Willie Dixon.b; Francis Clay or George Hunter.d 9140 Walking Thru The Park 1718
Muddy Waters,vcl/gtr; Otis Spann.pno; Buddy Guy or James “Pee Wee” Madison.g; Willie Dixon.b; S.P. Leary.d 13150 The Same Thing April 8, 1964
Muddy Waters,vcl/gtr; Otis Spann.pno; Buddy Guy or James “Pee Wee” Madison.g; Willie Dixon.b; S.P. Leary.d 13151 You Can’t Lose What You Ain’t Never Had 1895

Chess LP 1502 (1965) - CHD 9273, 1988

Tracks:
Killing Floor / Louise / Poor Boy / Sittin’ On Top Of The World / Nature / My Country Sugar Mama / Tail Dragger / Three Hundred Pounds Of Joy / Natchez Burning / Built For Comfort / Ooh Baby Hold Me / Tell Me What I’ve Done (bonus tracks marked *)

Discography:
Howlin’ Wolf,vcl/hs; Hosea Lee Kennard.pno; Willie Johnson and Hubert Sumlin.g; Willie Dixon.b; Earl Phillips.d
U 7985 * Smoke Stack Lightnin’ Chicago January 1956
U 7828 *Built “Smokestack Lightnin’” on the CD.
Howlin’ Wolf,vcl/hs; Hosea Lee Kennard.pno; Willie Johnson and Otis “Smokey” Smothers.g; Willie Dixon.b; Earl Phillips.d Chicago July 19, 1956
8178 The Natchez Burning Chess 1744
Howlin’ Wolf,vcl/hs; Adolph “Billy” Duncan.tensax; Hosea Lee Kennard.pno; Willie Johnson and Otis “Smokey” Smothers.g; Alfred Ellenb.g; Earl Phillips.d June 24, 1957
8531 Nature 1668
Howlin’ Wolf,vcl/hs; Hosea Lee Kennard.pno; Hubert Sumlin.g; Alfred Ellenb.g; Earl Phillips.d December 1957
8616 Poor Boy 1679
8618 Sittin’ On Top Of The World 1679
Howlin’ Wolf,vcl/hs; J.T. Brown and unknot,tensax; Little Johnny Jones.pno; Hubert Sumlin.g; Jerome Arnold.b; Junior Blackman.d September 28, 1962
11916 Tail Dragger 1890
Howlin’ Wolf,vcl/hs; J.T. Brown,tensax; Donald Hanksbars.sax; Lafayette Leake.p; Hubert Sumlin and Buddy Guy.g; prob Jerome Arnold.b; Sam Lay.d August 14, 1963
12617 * Hidden Charms 1890
12618 Three Hundred Pounds Of Joy 1870
12620 Built For Comfort 1970
Howlin’ Wolf,vcl/hs; J.T. Brown and unknot.tensax; Donald Hanksbars.sax; Lafayette Leake.p; Hubert Sumlin and Buddy Guy.g; Andrew Palmer.b; Sam Lay.d August 1964
13418 Killing Floor 1923
13419 My Country Sugar Mama –1 1911
13420 Louise 1923
Howlin’ Wolf,vcl/hs; Eddie Shaw.tensax; Lee Eggleston.p; Hubert Sumlin and Buddy Guy.g; unknot.b; Sam Lay.d April 1, 1928
13883 Tell Me What I’ve Done 1928
13885 Ooh Baby, Hold Me 1929
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

LOUISIANA SWAMP BLUES (producer: Jay Miller)

SLIM HARPO (1924-1970)

James Isaac Moore (born in Lobdell, Louisiana)
Recording 1957-1969 (mostly in Crowley, Louisiana).
Famous hits: I'm A King Bee (1957), Rainin' In My Heart (1961), Baby Scratch My Back (1966).

LIGHTNIN' SLIM (1913-1974)

Otis V. Hicks (born in St. Louis, Missouri)
Recording 1954-ca 1974 (mostly in Crowley, Louisiana).

LAZY LESTER (1933-2018)

Leslie Johnson (born in Torras, Louisiana)
Recording 1956-2010+ (mostly in Crowley, Louisiana).
Famous songs: I'm A Lover Not A Fighter, Sugar Coated Love (both 1958).

Buzzin' The Blues/The Complete Slim Harpo
  – Bear Family SCD BCD 17339 (2015)

I'm A Rolling Stone (1954-1962)
  - Jasmine CD JASMCD 3045 (2015)

I'm A Lover Not A Fighter
  – Ace CDCHD 518 (1994)

The R&B Pioneers Series - Volume Five of twelve
JUNIOR WELLS (1934-1998)


Blues Hit Big Town (1953 States) – Delmark CD 640 (2008)

CLARENCE BROWN (1924-2005)


JIMMY ROGERS (1924-1997)

James A. Lane (born in Ruleville, Mississippi)
Raised in Atlanta, Georgia and in Memphis.
Recording from 1948 in Chicago (mostly for Chess).

The Complete Chess Recordings (1950-1960)
- MCA/Universal/Chess MCD 09372 (1997)

JIMMY McCracklin (1921-2012)

James David Walker (born in Elaine, Arkansas).
Settled in Richmond, California during the early 1940s.
Recorded in Oakland (foremost), San Francisco and Los Angeles from 1945 for ao., Globe, Trilot, DownTown/SwingTime, RPM/Modem; and in Houston, Chicago; New York and Los Angeles again for Peacock, Checker, ArtTone, Imperial, Minit. Famous songs and hits: Miss Mattie Left Me (1946), Rockin All Day (1949), Blues For The People (1950), Couldn’t Be A Dream (1954), The Walk (1958), Just Got To Know (1961), Think (1965).

THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

B. B. KING’s EARLY SESSIONS IN MEMPHIS

Here are B.B.’s early Memphis-sessions (based on “The Blues Discography” by Fancourt and McGrath, 2012; Fancourt’s Retrack booklet of 1993; “The Vintage Years” on Ace Box 2002; and original RPM singles credits).

WDIA Radio Studio ca June 1949
with B.B. King vcl/g; Thomas Branch, tp; Sammie Jett, tb; Ben Branch, ts; Phineas Newborn Jr, p; Richard “Tuff” Green, b; Phineas Newborn Sr, d.
(Calvin Newborn may have been the guitar player here)
Miss Martha King – When Your Baby Packs Up And Goes (Bullet 309)
Got The Blues – Take A Swing With Me (Bullet 315)

Memphis Recording And Sound Service ca July 1950
with B.B. King (Singing Star of Station WDIA, Memphis), vcl;
Phineas Newborn Jr, p; Calvin Newborn, g; Tuff Green, b; Earl Forest, d
Mistreated Woman – B. B. Boogie (RPM 304)
The Other Night Blues – Walkin’ And Cryin’ (aka You Don’t Love Me No More) (RPM 311)
Note: Six alternates on Kent LP 9011, Ace CD LP CH 50 and CD 265

Memphis Recording And Sound Service January 8, 1951
with B.B. King vcl/g(not gtr on -1); E.A. Kamp, ts; Ford Nelson, p; James Walker, b; Solomon Hardy, d
My Baby’s Gone – Don’t You Want A Man Like Me -1 (RPM 318)
Questionnaire Blues – A New Way Of Driving (Kent LP KST 9011)
B. B. Blues (RPM 323) – Fine Lookin’ Woman (RPM 348 -x)
Note: Five alternates on Ace CD 835

Memphis Recording And Sound Service May 27, 1951
with B.B. King vcl/g; Richard Sanders, ts; prob Calvin Newborn, extra g; poss Phineas Newborn Jr, p; poss Phineas Newborn Sr, d
She’s A Mean Woman – Hard Working Woman (RPM 330)
Pray For You (Ace LP CH 50) – Darling I Love You (unissued)
Note: Three alternates on Ace CD 835

YMCA Memphis ca September, 1951
with B.B. King vcl/g; Adolph Billy Duncan and Richard Sanders, tss; Johnny Ace, p; Ike Turner (not Ace) on -1; James Walker, b; Earl Forest, d; omit saxes and add unknown g on -2.
3 O’Clock Blues -1 – That Ain’t The Way To Do It -2 (RPM 339)
She Don’t Move Me No More (RPM 348 -x)
Note: Alternate of “Ain’t…” on Kent LP 9011. x: 348 issued as B.B. King And His Orchestra

Tuff Green’s house January 24, 1952
with B.B. King (And His Orchestra) vcl/g; Richard Sanders, ts; unknown, second ts; Johnny Ace, pno; George Joyner, b; Earl Forest, d; Onzie Horne, vb; omit saxes on -1
Shake It Up And Go* – My Own Fault, Darlin’ -1 (RPM 355) –*may have been recorded earlier
Someday Some Where – Gotta Find My Baby (RPM 360)
Note: Alternates on Crown LP 5143, Kent LP 9011, and AceCDTop2 1406.

Unknown Studio Memphis (poss Tuff Green’s house) 1952
with B.B. King, vcl/g; Raymond Hill, as; unknown p, b, d; Onzie Horne, vb
Low Down Dirty Baby – I’m So Glad (Ace CD CHD 201)

Unknown Studio Memphis poss April 1952
with B.B. King (And His Orchestra -x) vcl/g(only on -1); as (poss Hank Crawford), ts (poss Ben Branch), unknown bs; prob. Ike Turner, p; unknown, g, d. unknown congas on -2 (Charles Cosby?)
You Didn’t Want Me – You Know I Love You (RPM 363 -x)
Story From My Heart And Soul -2 – Boogie Woogie Woman -1 (RPM 374)
Note: Alternate of “Story” on Ace CDCHM 1093 with no congas

The best CD covering the Memphis sessions 1950-51 (plus *) is Ace 2-set CDCHM2 835 (2002), which includes the alternates.

After this session B.B. recorded from October 1952 and in 1953 in Houston (Texas), Covington (Tennessee), and Cincinnati with Bill Harvey’s band (featuring Floyd Jones, tp; George Coleman, sax; Harvey, ts; Connie Mack Booker, p; James Walker, b; Ted Curry, d; Charles Cosby, cg). The records were issued as B.B. King And His Orchestra.

In February 1954 he started recording in Los Angeles (Capitol Studios and Modern’s own studios in Culver City) – now with the orchestra arranged and conducted by Maxwell Davis, although King also recorded with his own orchestra when on tour (featuring “leftovers” from Harvey’s band and newcomers). RPM now started releasing King’s records as B.B. “Boys” King And His Orchestra.
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

B. B. KING – some fine CDs


Ace CDTOP 1457 feat 25 unissued alternate RPM/Kent rec. (Nov. 2015)
Early members of the B. B. King touring orchestra from 1955 were recruited from the Harvey band - Coleman, Joyner, Curry and Forrest, and probably also Crosby. Pianist Millard Lee became bandleader in the first line-up. Other original band members were Kenny Sands and Calvin Owens, trumpets (Owens later became band leader), Lawrence Burdine and Floyd Newman, baritone saxes. Soon also Johnny Board, tenorsax; Sonny Freeman, dms; Duke Jethro, pno; Hugh McCracken and Milton Hopkins, guitar; and Cato Walker, altosax (who had been bus driver and "extra tour manager"). The Maxwell Davis orchestra during 1954-1957 variously comprised: Davis, Bumps Myers, Charlie Waller, Lorenzo Holden, Maurice Simon, Jack McVea, Floyd Turnham, and Jewel Giant (saxophones), Jake Porter (ts), McDaniel (pno), Ralph Hamilton, Billy Hadrott and Red Callender (tbn), Jesse Sale and Jesse Price (drums). King worked in Texas, California, Chicago and later New York, settling in Los Angeles during the late 1960s. King switched from Kent to ABC in 1962 but made his last session for Kent on December 28, 1965 ("Rock Me Baby") may have been recorded March 18, 1964). During the early "60s King's band was for a while Sands, tp; Bobby Forte, ts; Duke Jethro, pno; Wilbert Freeman, bs; and Sonny Freeman, dms.

B. B. KING

"Mr. Blues" - "The Beale Street Blues Boy" - "King of the Blues" - "Bee Bee". The most famous and internationally successful blues singer/guitarist and the greatest of the "industrial" city blues guitar stylists. Charter member of the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame in 1980, and inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987. King mixed the traditions of Texas and Mississippi (with origins in Blind Lemon Jefferson, Lonnie Johnson, T-Bone Walker; his three most favorites; and Lowell Fulson, and Roy Brown - all last three partly Indian descents). Was also influenced by Charlie Christian, Django Reinhardt, and Bukka White (a distant cousin). Started his career, singing gospel, in Indiana, Miss and came to Memphis, Tenn in 1948. Had his own radio show in Memphis during 1949-50 and formed The Beale Street Blues Boys, featuring Johnny Ace, pno; and Earl Forrest, dms. His early RPM recordings produced by Sam Phillips, and soon by Ike Turner. Later toured the South with Bill Harvey's Band (featuring Evelyn Young and George Coleman, saxes; Floyd Jones, tpt; Connie Mack Booker, pno; George Joyner and James Walker, bs; Ted Curry and sometimes also Earl Forrest, drums; and Charles Crosby, congas) and recorded in Houston. The last session with Harvey's band is of uncertain date, but there is a session noted February 6, 1954 (at Universal Recorders, Hollywood), featuring "The Woman I Love", "Everything I Do Is Wrong", "Whole Lotta Meat", and "Whole Lotta Love" of which "Everything..." really sounds like Harvey's band - although Maxwell seems to have written "Whole Lotta Love". Some of the Houston-sessions were brought to Los Angeles studios for editing/mastering. From 1954 he mostly made his studio recordings in L.A. led by Maxwell Davis (with Willard McDaniel on piano and Bumps Myers on tenorsax) starting with the great session done at Capitol Studios in L.A. March 2, 1954 featuring the re-recording of "Take A Little Swing With Me" as "Love You Baby", the second (jump) recording of "Don't You Want A Man Like Me", "When My Heart Beats Like A Hammer" and the hit "Every Day I Have The Blues" (The next session in August, done at Modern's own studios, featured "You Upset Me Baby"). Billed as B. B. "Blues Boy" King & His Orchestra from his mid-50s RPM releases through 1957 (the first single: "Love You Baby"). King got a new manager in the late 1960s - Sid Seidenberg.

BORN: Riley B. King, September 16, 1925, Bear Creek, Bentclark (near Itta Bena and later moved to Kiln), Mississippi. (although B.B. called Indianola, where he lived the early 40s, his home). Died in Las Vegas, Nevada May 14, 2015.

First recordings: Memphis late 1949 Miss Martha King and Take A Swing With Me - Bullet 309 and 315; September 1950 B.B. Boogie - RPM 304.

Records for: RPM 50-57, Kent 58-62 (possibly longer) plus one session 1965, ABC/Bluesway 62-74, from 1960 MCA.

Essential CDs.

The Best CDs:
The Vintage Years (4CD) - Ace ABOXCD 8 (2002) - the legendary RPM and Kent recordings and Kings of The Blues (4CD) - MCA D4-10677 (1991) - mostly ABC/MCA recordings

For Collectors:
Singing The Blues/The Blues - Ace CCHD 320 (also on Flair V2-86296) (1991)

The RPM Hits 1951-1957 - Ace CCHD 712 (1999)


Live at the Regal - MCA MCD-11646 (1997)

Ace in U.K. have reissued eleven old Crown LPs on CDs with bonus tracks (2003-2006) - terrific stuff

Reading:
The B.B. King Treasures by B.B. King with Dick Waterman and Charles Sawyer (Bullfinch 2005 incl a 16-track CD)
Blues Boy - The Life and Music of B.B. King by Sebastian Danchin (University Press of Mississippi, 1998)
A Life of Blues: by Richard Booth (US 2015)
Every Day I Sing The Blues: The Story of B. B. King by David Shirley (US, 1995)

First LP: Singin´ The Blues - Crown LP 5020 (spring 1957)

Volume Five of twelve

The R&B Pioneers Series -
B. B. KING, vocals/guitar “LUCKY-SEVEN”

1. **B. B. King and his Orchestra** (featuring Ike Turner or pass Johnny Ace, pno, Earl Forest, dms)
   - Memphis, ca September 1951:
     - MM 1682 3 O’Clock Blues - RPM 339 (#1 for 5, 17w tot, 1952)
2. **B. B. “Blues Boy” King and his Orchestra** (featuring Maxwell Davis, sax, Willard McDaniel, pno, Bumps Myers, sax) - Los Angeles Modern Studios, August 18-19, 1954:
   - MM 2121 You Set Me Baby - RPM 416 (#1 for 2, 12w)
3. **Hollywood Capitol Studios, March 2, 1954**:
   - MM 2140 Every Day I Have The Blues - RPM 421 (#8, 5w 1955)
   - 4. (featuring Millard Lee, pno, Floyd Newman, sax, Kenny Sands, tpt) - Little Rock, April/May 1956:
     - MM 3057-2 Sweet Little Angel - RPM 468 (#6, 5w)
   - This song was also recorded with Maxwell Davis as arranger in Los Angeles 6.
   - This song was also recorded with Maxwell Davis as arranger in Hollywood Capitol St
5. **B. B. King and his Orchestra** (featuring Johnny Board, sax and Sonny Freeman, dms)
   - Los Angeles, October 26, 1959:
     - MM Sweet Sixteen (Parts 1 & 2) - Kent 330 (#2, 14w in 1960)
6. **B. B. King** (featuring Charles Brooks, pno; Lawrence Burdine, sax; Sonny Freeman, New York, September 30, 1963:
   - 11796 How Blue Can You Get - ABC-Par 10527 (#23, 5w)
   - This song was also recorded with Maxwell Davis as arranger in Los Angeles around December, 1961 as “Downhearted” for Crown LP 5309.
7. (featuring, Jimmy McCracklin, pno; Sonny Freeman, dms)
   - Los Angeles, ca 1962 or poss. March 18, 1964:
     - 393 Rock Me Baby – Kent 393 (#12, 7w in 1964)

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**THE Blues Giants of the 1950s**

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R&B Top 10 Hits: (24 of 68 Top 40)

1952

3 O’Clock Blues #1 for 5w

1952 You Know I Love You #1 for 2w

1952 Story From My Heart And Soul #9

1952 Wake Up This Morning #3

1952 Please Love Me #1 for 3w

1952 Please Hurry Home #4

1954 When My Heart Beats Like A Hammer #8

1954 You Upset Me Baby # 1 for 2w

1954 Whole Lotta Love #8

1955 Every Day I Have The Blues #8

1955 Ten Long Years #9

1956 Bad Luck #3

1956 Sweet Little Angel #6

1956 On My Word Of Honor #3

1958 Please Accept My Love #9

1960 Sweet Sixteen #2

1960 Got A Right To Love My Baby #8

1960 Partin’ Time #8

1961 Pease Of Mind #7

1966 Don’t Answer The Door #2

1966 Paying The Cost To Be The Boss #10

1970 The Thrill Is Gone #3

1970 Chains And Things #6

1973 I Like To Live The Love #6

Other Important Ones:

1949 Take A Swing With Me

1950 B.B. Boogie

1951 Don’t You Want A Man Like Me

1951 She’s Dynamite

1955 Sneakin’ Around

1955 Crying Won’t Help You

1957 You Don’t Know

1957 Troubles Troubles Troubles

1958 Why Do Everything Happen To Me

1959 Sweet Thing (LP - issued on single 1971)

1961 Baby, Look At You (rec earlier)

1961 I’m King

1962 Gonna Miss You Around Here

1962 Easy Listening Blues

1962 Blues At Midnight - ABC

1963 Downhearted (How Blue Can You Get) - Kent

1963 Down Now - Kent

1964 Rock Me Baby (R&B # 12, Pop # 3) - Kent

1964 Never Trued A Woman

1965 Got Em Bad - Kent

1968 I’m Gonna Do What They Do To Me

1969 Lucille

1969 Why I Sing The Blues

1971 The Thrill Is Gone

1973 To Know You Is To Love You

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**B.B. King’s original Crown and Kent LPs**

The Crown albums were issued between early 1957-late 1963 - the Kent LPs during from 1964 – the early 1970s. The reissues are on United and issued (during the very late 60s and in the 1970s - Custom 10xx / United 77xx). The Ace CDs (2003-2006) include 8 bonus tracks each (897 has 10).

**Crown**

5020 Singin’ The Blues (1071 / 7726) Ace CDCHM 1041

5063 The Blues (1077 / 7732) Ace CDCHM 1046

5115 B.B. King Wails (1049 / 7711 as I Love You So) Ace CDCHM 882

5119 Sings Spirituals (1059 / 7721 as Swing Low Sweet Chariot) Ace CDCHM 1039

5143 The Great B.B. King (1073 / 7728) Ace CDCHM 1049

5167 King Of The Blues. (1075 / 7720) Ace CDCHM 897

5188 My Kind of Blues (1069 / 7724) Ace CDCHM 881

5230 More B.B. King (1046 / 7708 as Blues For Me) Ace CDCHM 1034

5248 Twist With B.B. King (not on Custom/United) not on Ace

5286 Easy Listening Blues (1043 / 7705) Ace CDCHM 1011

5309 Blues In My Heart (1040 / 7703 as A Heart Full Of Blues) Ace CDCHM 995

5359 B. B. King (1052 / 7714 as The Soul Of B.B. King) Ace CDCHM 986

**Kent**

5512 Rock Me Baby - 14 Great Hits (7733)

5513 Let Me Love You (7734)

5515 Live On Stage (7796)

5521 The Jungle (7742)

5529 Boss Of The Blues (7750)

2-533 From The Beginning [Set w/ dubbed brass]

9011 Anthology Of The Blues - B.B. King 1949-1950

(7788 as Original Folk Blues)

539 The Incredible Soul Of BB. King (7749)

548 Turn On To B.B. King (w. extra rhythm) (7763 as Turn On With ..)

552 The Greatest Hits of Vol 1 (7766) identical to first half of 2-533

561 Better Than Ever (7771 reissue of Crown 5167 “That Evil Child”)

563 I’m B.B. King - Doing My Thing, Lord (reissue of Crown 5119)

565 B.B. King Live (reissue of Kent 5015) (7772)

568 The Original Sweet Sixteen (7773 reissue of Rock Me Baby)

Kent 5102 Rock Me Baby - 14 Great Hits (7733)

Kent 5113 Let Me Love You (7734)

Kent 5115 Live On Stage (7796)

Kent 5521 The Jungle (7742)

Kent 5529 Boss Of The Blues (7750)

Kent 561 Better Than Ever (7771 reissue of Crown 5167 “That Evil Child”)

Kent 563 I’m B.B. King - Doing My Thing, Lord (reissue of Crown 5119)

Kent 565 B.B. King Live (reissue of Kent 5015) (7772)

Kent 568 The Original Sweet Sixteen (7773 reissue of Rock Me Baby)

Kent 569 Blues In My Heart (1040 / 7703 as A Heart Full Of Blues) Ace CDCHM 996

Kent 5359 B. B. King (1052 / 7714 as The Soul Of B.B. King) Ace CDCHM 986

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Below are listed the tracks of the 2-set album by B.B. which has his old hits and some new ones, several with over dubbed brass and rhythm directed by Maxwell Davis.

KST 2-533 From The Beginning B.B. King (1969/89) Album 1: Please Love Me Rock Me Baby/Every Day I Have the Blues/Wake Up This Morning/My Own Fault/S 5 Long Years/You Upset Me/Blue Shadows/The Woman I Love/You Know I Love You/Seventeen Little Angel/Treat Me Right. Album 2: Sweet Sixteen/Ev'ryday To the Blues/Elegant Blues/Bad Luck/Troubles/Trouble Sneakin’ Around/Sweet Sixteen/O Clock Blues/The Jungle/Let Me Love You/The Wrong Thing/My Life/Shot Gun Blues

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The R&B Pioneers Series - Volume Five of twelve

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B. B. KING on CROWN Records

Here are the Bihari brothers’ original B. B. King LPs on the budget series CLP- on the label Crown (not all of the the “stereo” series had a CST-prefix and only three digits, and the covers of the stereo records could differ minor in layout). Rec dates indicate “main” dates and are approx. If no rec date, the album is a compilation.

Crown LPs CLP: 5020 (ca 6/57; originally intended as RPM LP 3005), 5063 (6/58), 5115 (4/59, rec January-April 1959, some poss Houston)


THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

.... and its counterparts on UNITED Records (United/Superior)

B. B King’s United/Superior albums (yet another Bihari-label) were issued during the 1970s. There are almost always differing covers on the albums different pressings, although often very similar but in changed colors and layout. This may be due to that the label often called itself simply United on further reissue sleeve and some album covers were printed under that banner. This label started as United/Superior, and the label was technically named this the entire time, but on the jackets and labels, the label name was shortened to "United" in the early 1970s. Although the front of the jackets and the later purple labels said "United Records," the early labels and the back sleeve of the album covers always said "United/Superior Records." Please note that the LPs were not issued in the same chronological order as Crown, and that the albums also had been issue issued on the Custom-label - again with some minor cover changes in mid late '60s, and not as widespread as the later United.

United-United/Superior LPs US:- 7725, 7732, 7711

United-United/Superior LPs US:- 7721, 7726, 7730

United-United/Superior LPs US:- 7724, 7708, 7721 (alternate stereo cover – Crown CLP 5248 "Twist" not issued on United)

United-United/Superior LPs US:- 7705, 7703, 7714
B. B. King’s original Kent LPs 1964 – 1972plus

Here they are – B. B.’s Kent LPs started being issued in 1964. Catalogue numbers were in the 500-series (except foldable 8011 “Anthology”), starting with 5012-mono/512-stereo. All but two were reissued in the United 77xx-series (mostly with changed covers). Check for details in the B. B. King feature. "Turn On To B. B. King" was titled "Turn On With" on United /United/Superior.

… and the United Superior reissues + Flair “Spotlight on Lucille” CD (Note: "From The Beginning" and "I’m B. B. King" not issued on United):
B. B. King’s original LPs on ABC-Paramount and BluesWay 1963-69

ABC-Paramount 456 (1963), 509 (1965) and 628 (1965)

Bluesway 6001 (1967), 6011 (1968) and 6016 (1968)


Note: Later Kent issued Kent cassette 2002 “Just Sweet Guitar (Spotlight on Lucille)” which was originally (circa 1973) intended for United 7792.
A NEW B. B. KING PUBLIC DOMAIN

THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

B.B. King, “I call myself a blues singer, but you ain’t never heard me call myself a blues guitar man”, said B.B. King, a guitarist and singer and a true legend of the music of the 20th century, in all modestly. The “Beale Street Blues Boy” and his guitar “Lucille” were an unbeatable duo that sold millions of records and was awarded every noteworthy prize in the music business – and beyond. There has virtually been no greater influence on generations of rock musicians than this former tractor driver on a cotton farm, who was an idol to legions of guitarists from Jimi Hendrix through Eric Clapton to Stevie Ray Vaughan or Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones. Ten original albums of his make up this box; in addition there are some exciting bonus tracks for the discerning Blues fan.

B.B. King recorded 70 singles and 25 albums for the Bihari brothers on their labels RPM, Crown and Kent, which were sold more or less exclusively in the black neighbourhoods of American cities. Such as the rare 1960 Crown LP King recorded with Duke Ellington’s orchestra, as well as the scarce 1962 LP "Twist with B. B. King", which appears here on CD for the first time - they are included in this box next to many other legendary recordings. They form the basis of the legacy of B.B. King, who died in February 2015 at the age of 89.

CD 1: "SIMON THE BLUES" (1957)
CD 2: "THE BLUES" (1958)
CD 3: "B. B. KING WALES" (1959)
CD 4: "B. B. KING SINGS SPIRITUALS" (1959)
CD 5: "B. B. KING SINGS COMPOSITIONS OF DUKE ELLINGTON & OTHERS" (1964)
CD 6: "KING OF THE BLUES" (1966)
CD 7: "MY KIND OF BLUES" (1969)
CD 8: "MORE B. B. KING" (1971)
CD 9: "EASY LISTENING BLUES" (1982)
CD 10: "TWIST WITH B. B. KING" (1983)

Bonus Tracks

Documents 10 CD package issued November 2015. Find it at amazon.co.uk.
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

B. B. KING - ONE SINGLE PER YEAR 1949 – 1968

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THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

B B King - NEW Japan P-Vine CD Box

The Complete RPM-Kent Recording Box 1950-1965
— The Life, Times and the Blues of B.B. in All His Glory

PCD-LP-320 - 17CDs, 1 LP, and LP sized booklet, hardcover book (THE ARRIVAL OF B.B. KING by Charles Sawyer) and bonus glossy photos and postcard - 623 tracks – issued 16 Dec 2015
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

Ladies & Gentlemen... Mr B.B King (Box set)

Issued 2012 on 4CD-set Universal 5339086 (also issued on Hip-O 5338499) and on LP Universal 5362973 in 2015
THE BLUES GIANTS

Chess Records’ “Big Four”

The “Blues Guitar Kings”

The “Confederate Legends”

The Mississippi “Delta Idols”
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

TWO FAMOUS VEE-JAY BLUES LPs

John Lee Hooker’s very first LP was “I’m John Lee Hooker” - the same happened with Jimmy Reed’s first a year earlier. “I’m Jimmy Reed”. Both albums were (just like Chess’ first ones) in principal compilations of earlier singles. Here are Hooker’s first and Reed’s second LP. The four bonus tracks on Charly’s (UK) Hooker reissue SNAP 130 CD (2003) are marked *. Master numbers and original Vee-Jay single catalogue numbers are given (with issue date). All recordings done in Chicago.

Vee-Jay LP 1007 (ca August, 1959)

Tracks:
Dimples / Hobo Blues / I’m So Excited / I Love You Honey / Boogie Chillun / Little Wheel // I’m In The Mood / Maudie / Crawlin’ King Snake / Every Night / Time Is Marching / Baby Lee

Discography:
John Lee Hooker,vcl/gtr; Jimmy Reed,hca-1; Eddie Taylor,gtr; George Washington,bs; Tom Whitehead,dms
1953-336  Unfriendly Woman Vee-Jay 265 (3/56)
1953-339  Time Is Marching -1 Vee-Jay 164 (11/55)
John Lee Hooker,vcl/gtr; Eddie Taylor,gtr; George Washington,bs; Tom Whitehead,dms
1954-362  * I’m So Worried Baby Vee-Jay 265 (6/58)
1954-362  Baby Lee 205 (8/56)
1954-364  Dimples 205
1954-369  Every Night 188 (4/56)
1954-373  * Trouble Blues 188
John Lee Hooker,vcl/gtr; Eddie Taylor,gtr; Quinn Wilson,bs; Tom Whitehead,dms
1957-634  I’m So Excited 245 (4/57)
John Lee Hooker,vcl/gtr; Frankie Bradford,pno; Eddie Taylor,gtr; Everett McCracy,bs; Richard Johnson,dms
1957-717  Little Wheel 255 (9/57)
1957-720  * You Can Lead Me Baby 265 (2/58)
John Lee Hooker,vcl/gtr; Joe (Edward) Hunter (or poss Bob Porter),pno; Eddie Taylor,gtr; Everett McCracy,bs; Richard Johnson,dms
1958-921  I Love You Honey 293 (9/58) R&B #29
1958-927  Love You 301 (2/59)
1959-1067  Maudie - 1, 2 301 (2/59)
1959-1067  I’m In The Mood -1 209
1959-1070  Boogie Chillun 319 (6/59)
1959-1071  Hobo Blues 331 (10/59)
1959-1072  Crawlin Kingsnake
Note the spellings of 1070 and 1072. The last four are quality remakes of some of Hooker’s hits for Modern Records.

Vee-Jay LP 1008 (September, 1959)

Tracks:
Going To New York / A String To Your Heart / Ends And Odds / Caress Me Baby / Take Out Some Insurance / The Moon Is Rising // Down In Virginia / I Know It’s A Sin / Wanna Be Loved / Baby, What’s On Your Mind / My Bitter Seed / Rockin’ With Reed

Discography:
Jimmy Reed,hca/gtr; Eddie Taylor and John Littlejohn,pno; Albert King,dms
1953-123  Rockin’ With Reed 186 (1956)
Jimmy Reed,vcl/hca/gtr; Eddie Taylor,gtr; Earl Phillips,dms
1954-314  January 22, 1959
1954-326  March 12, 1958
1954-333  Poss December 29/30, 1953
1954-326  September 5, 1957
1958-737  My Bitter Seed -1 unissued on single
1958-738  Ends And Odds 304 (1959)
Jimmy Reed,vcl/gtr; Remo Biondi and Eddie Taylor,gtrs; Earl Phillips,dms
1959-811  A String To Your Heart 270 (1958)
1959-863  The Moon Is Rising unissued on single
1959-864  Down In Virginia -1 287 (1958)
Jimmie Reed,vcl/gtr; Remo Biondi and Eddie Taylor,gtrs; Earl Phillips,dms
1958-921  I Wanna Be Loved 326 (1959)
1958-922  Caress Me Baby 333 (1959)
1958-923  I Know It’s A Sin 287 (1958)
1958-994  Going To New York 326 (1959)
Jimmie Reed,vcl/gtr; William “Lefty” Bates and Eddie Taylor,gtrs; Earl Phillips,dms
May 28, 1958
1959-1011  Take Out Some Insurance 314 (1959)
Note. This LP does not feature any R&B hit.

The R&B Pioneers Series - Volume Five of twelve 117
THE BLUES GIANTS OF THE 1950s

TWO FAMOUS CROWN BLUES LPs – reissued on Ace, UK

Crown Records’ budget LP series in Los Angeles, managed by the Bihari brothers, was initiated in 1957. We had to wait until issue number 20 (after som pop, jazz and rock ’n roll releases), for the blues. Crown LP 5020 was (naturally) B.B. King’s first LP. Elmore’s first came in 1960. Both albums were in principal compilations of earlier singles. Here they are:

Crown LP 5020 (spring 1957)

Tracks:

- Please Love Me / You Upset Me Baby / Every Day I Have the Blues / Bad Luck / 3 O’clock Blues / Blind Love // Woke Up This Morning / You Know I Love You / Sweet Little Angel / Ten Long Years / Did You Ever Love A Woman / Crying Won’t Help You

Discography:

- B. B. King, vcl/gtr; Adolph “Billy” Duncan, ts; Richard Sanders, bs; Ike Turner, p; James Walker, b; Earl Forest, d; Calvin Owens and Kenneth Sands, tps; Lawrence Burdine and Johnny Board, tss; Floyd B. B. “Blues Boy” Newman, Fred Ford or Henry Green, bs; Millard Lee, p; Jymie Merritt, b; Ted Curry, d

Crown LP 5168 (mid/late 1960)

Tracks:

- Dust My Blues / Sunnyland / Mean and Evil / Dark and Dreary / Standing at the Crossroads / Happy Home / No Love in My Heart / Blues Before Sunrise / I Was a Fool / Goodbye Baby

Discography:

- Elmore James, vcl/gtr and His Broomdusters -1 and or His Broomdusters: J.T. Brown, ts; Boyd Atkins, axts; Johnny Jones, p; prob Ransom Knowling, b; Olie Payne, d

Both albums were the same as the original Crown LPs (although now with an Ace logo added – these logos are not shown below). Tracks list is Crown. Master numbers were insignificant, but listed are the original singles.

FROM LEFT: HOMECOAST, J. T. BROWN, AND ELMORE JAMES (CA 1960)
THE BLUES GIANTS OF THE 1950S

THE THREE ORIGINAL MORE REAL FOLK BLUES LPS

All three in late 1966 on Chess — in mono and in "stereo" — LPs 1509 (LPS 1509) and 1511 (LPS 1511) of late 1966, and 1512 (LPS 1512) of early 1967. (In between came 1510 Memphis Slim "The Real Folk Blues", and 1508 was John Lee Hooker "The Real Folk Blues"). All recordings done in Chicago.

SONNY BOY WILLIAMSON, vcl/hca
with Otis Spann, pno; Robert Jr Lockwood & Luther Tucker, gtrs; Billy Emerson, bas; Fred Below, dms
January 30, 1960
9829 The goat
Checker 450
with Otis Spann, pno; Eddie King Milton & Luther Tucker, gtrs; Willie Dixon, bs; Fred Below, dms
June 1960
10269 Somebody help me
LP 1509
with Otis Spann, pno; Robert Jr Lockwood & Luther Tucker, gtrs; Willie Dixon, bs; Al Duncan, dms
December 14, 1960
10570 She's my baby
LP 1509
10571 Stop right now
975
10572 The hunt
975
same with Fred Below, dms
September 8, 1961
11227 Nine below zero
1003
with Lafayette Leake or Billy Emerson, org; Matt Murphy, gtr; Milton Rector, bs; Al Duncan, dms
January 11, 1963
12114 Bye bye bird
1036
12115 Help me
1036 (R&B 24)
with Jarrett Gibson, tsax, Donald Hankin, bsax; Lafayette Leake, pno; Buddy Guy, gtr; Jack Meyers, bs; Clifton James, dms
September 3, 1963
12664 My younger days
1080
12665 Trying to get back on my feet
1065
12666 Decoration day
1065
with Lafayette Leake, pno; Buddy Guy, gtr; Jack Meyers, bs; Fred Below, dms
April 30, 1964
13211 I want you close to me
1080
Note: titled "Close to me" on LP.


MUDDY WATERS, vcl/gtr
with Big Crawford, bs
1950
7131 Train fare home
Anastaci 1306
7132 Down south blues
LP 1511
7133 Kind hearted woman
LP 1511
7134 Sittin' here and drinkin'
Anastaci 1306
Note: 7131 and 7134 titled "Train fare blues" and "Whiskey blues" on LP.
with Little Walter, hca; Big Crawford, bs
August 15, 1950
7261 You're gonna need my help ("I said")
Chess 1434
7262 Sad letter (as above)
7263 Early morning blues
1490
7264 Appealing blues
1468
7265 You're gonna need my help ("I said")
You're gonna need my help ("I said")
7266 akas "Before daybreak" and 7264 aka "Hello little girl".
with Little Walter, hca; Big Crawford, bs

MUDY WATERS AND HIS GUITAR, vcl/gtr
with Little Walter, hca (gtr-1); Big Crawford, bs
January 23, 1951
7305 Too young to know
1452
7306 Honey bee
1468
with Jimmy Rogers, gtr; and prob Walter Horton, hca and Willie Nix, dms
Chicago or Memphis
January 9, 1953
4333 My life is ruined
LP 1511
4334 She's all right (alt)
LP 1511
Note: 4333 aka "Land lady". Alternate take of 4334 issued on Chess 1517 single.

MUDDY WATERS

Sad Letter / Gonna Need My Help / Whiskey Blues / Down South Blues / Train Fare Blues / Kind-Hearted Woman / Appealing Blues / Early Morning Blues / Too Young To Know / She's All Right / My Life Is Ruined / Honey Bee

Just My Kind / I've Got A Woman / Work For Your Money / I'll Be Around / You Can't Be Beat / You Gonna Wreck My Life / I Love My Baby / Neighbors / I'm the Wolf / Rocking Daddy / Who Will Be Next? / I Have A Little Girl

HOWLIN WOLF

LP front cover, or HOWLIN' WOLF (LP back cover and label) or THE HOWLIN' WOLF (1557), vcl/hca with piano, Willie Johnson, gtr; bs; dms
prob Memphis 1953
(mastered in Chicago September 24)
7556 I've got a woman
LP 1512
7557 Just my kind
LP 1512
7558 Work for your money
LP 1512
7566 I love my baby
Chess 1557

THE HOWLIN' WOLF, vcl/hca (no hca-1)
with Otis Spann, pno; Lee Cooper, gtr; Willie Dixon, bs; Earl Phillips, dms
Chicago, March 1954
7618 No place to go
1566
7619 Neighbors
LP 1512
7620 I'm the Wolf
LP 1512
7621 Rocking daddy
1566
Note: 7618 titled "You gonna wreck my life" on LP.
with Otis Spann, pno; Jody Williams and Hubert Sumlin, gtrs; Willie Dixon, bs; Earl Phillips, dms
October 1954
7740 I'll be around
1584

HOWLIN' WOLF

with Henry Gray, pno; Jody Williams and Hubert Sumlin, gtrs; Willie Dixon, bs; Earl Phillips, dms
March 1955
7795 Who will be the next
1593
7796 I have a little girl
as above

HOWLIN' WOLF

with Muddy Waters, vcl/hca
The three original MORE REAL FOLK BLUES LPS

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The R&B Pioneers Series - Volume Five of twelve
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

Three Masters of Harmonica

Little Walter

The Howlin' Wolf

(Sonny Boy’s Alligator album contains nice Storyville recordings)
Possibly the three most important blues performers (B. B. King, John Lee Hooker and Muddy Waters) have all been active through the most interesting years of blues history. They chose different directions (locations) to start their careers (Memphis, Detroit and Chicago). All three started recording during the 1940s, and did record lots of super-famous blues songs up to their last years on this earth. Here you have them in a true "blues battle"! (# indicates peak position on US R&B Charts)

These are their very best of their prime years!
The first three songs listed are three great classic "bonus" waxings, representing favorite recordings not listed in the chronological battle on the following pages.

**B. B. King 1925 – 2015**

**Every Day I Have The Blues** – RPM 421 (#8)
Rec in Los Angeles (Capitol Studios) March 2, 1954
B.B. King, vcl/gtr; Jewell Grant, as; Maxwell Davis, Bumps Myers, tss; Willard McDaniel, pno; cga (poss Charles Crosby); unkn b; Jesse Sailes, d.
Issued in early 1955 (also on Crown LP 5020 in spring 1957).

**Birmingham Blues** – Vee-Jay 538
Rec in Chicago mid 1963
Issued in 1963 (also on Vee-Jay LP 1066 in 1963)

**Mannish Boy** – Chess 1602 (#5)
Rec in Chicago May 24, 1955
Muddy Waters, vcl (no gtr); Junior Wells, hca; Jimmy Rogers, gtr; Willie Dixon, b; Fred Below, d; chorus.
Issued in mid 1955
(also on Chess LP 1501 in June 1966 – as "Mannish Boy")
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

Three Mississippi-born Delta Blues Kings – and their “Blues Battle”

The 1940s

Miss Martha King – Bullet 309
Take A Swing With Me – Bullet 315
*Rec in Memphis ca June 1949*
B.B. King, vcl (and prob gtr); Thomas Branch, tp; Sammie Jett, tb; Ben Branch, bs; Phineas Newborn Jr, p; Tuff Green, b; Phineas Newborn Sr, d; (Calvin Newborn, gtr may have been present). Both records issued in 1949. B.B made a great re-recording of 315, now titled “Love You Baby”, on RPM 408 in L.A. (March 2, 1954).

Boogie Chillen’ – Modern 20-627 (#1)
Crawlin’ King Snake – Modern 20-714 (#6)
*Rec in Detroit September 3, 1948*

Classics of 1951-1952

Don’t You Want A Man Like Me
- RPM 318
*Rec in Memphis January 8, 1951*
B.B. King, vcl; E.A. Kamp, ts; Ford Nelson, p; James Walker, b; Solomon Hardy, d. Issued in 1951.

I’m In The Mood
- Modern 835 (#1)
*Rec in Detroit August 7, 1951*
John Lee Hooker, triple-voice vcl/double-track gtr; Eddie Kirkland, second gtr. Issued in September 1951.

Blues For Big Town
- Fortune LP 3002
*Rec in Detroit 1952*
John Lee Hooker, vcl/gtr, Bob Thurman, pno; Hooker or Eddie Kirkland, prob second gtr. Issued on LP in ca 1963.

I Can’t Be Satisfied
- Aristocrat 1305A
I Feel Like Going Home
- Aristocrat 1305B
*Rec in Chicago ca December 1947*
Muddy Waters, vcl/gtr; Ernest Big Crawford, b. Issued in June, 1948 (B-side #11 in 1948) Muddy had recorded different versions of these songs already in August 1941 in Stovall, Mississippi as McKinley Morganfield for Alan Lomax.

Long Distance Call
- Chess 1452 (#8)
*Rec in Chicago January 22, 1951*
Muddy Waters, vcl/gtr; Little Walter, hca; Ernest Big Crawford, b. Issued in March, 1951.

Still A Fool
- Chess 1480 (#9)
*Rec in Chicago July 11, 1951*
Muddy Waters, vcl; Little Walter and Jimmy Rogers, gtrs; Ernest Big Crawford, b; Elga Edmonds or Len Chess, d. Issued in October, 1951.
The mid/late 1950s

When My Heart Beats Like A Hammer
- RPM 412 (#8) Rec in Los Angeles (Capitol Studios) March 2, 1954
B.B. King, vcl/gtr; Jewell Grant, as; Maxwell Davis, Bumps Myers, tbs; Willard McDaniel, pno; b, g; Jesse Sails, d. Issued in mid 1954.

You Upset Me Baby
- RPM 416 (#1)
Rec in Los Angeles (Modern Studios Culver City) August 18-19, 1954

Crying Won't Help You
- RPM 451 (#15)
Rec in Chicago ca November 1955
B.B. King, vcl/gtr; prob with King's road band featuring Johnny Board, tbs. Issued in early 1956.

Sweet Little Angel
- RPM 468 (#6)
Rec in Little Rock, Ark April/May 1956
B.B. King, vcl/gtr; with Calvin Owens, Kenneth Sands, tp; Lawrence Burdine, as; Johnny Board, tbs; Floyd Newman (or Fred Ford or Hermann Green), bars; Millard Lee, pno; Jymie Merritt, b; Ted Curry, d. Issued in 1956.

Dimples
- Vee-Jay 205
Rec in Chicago March 27, 1956
John Lee Hooker, vcl/gtr; Eddie Taylor, gtr; George Washington, b; Tom Whitehead, d. Issued in August, 1956.

I See You When You're Weak
- Vee-Jay 245
Rec in Chicago March 1, 1957
John Lee Hooker, vcl/gtr; Eddie Taylor, gtr; Quinn Wilson, b; Tom Whitehead, d. Issued in April, 1957.

I Love You Honey
- Vee-Jay 293 (#29)
Rec in Chicago June 10, 1958
John Lee Hooker, vcl/gtr; Joe Edward Hunter, pno; Eddie Taylor, gtr; Everett McCrary, b; Richard Johnson, d. Issued in September, 1958.

Hug And Squeeze b/w
The Syndicator – Modern 966
Rec in Chicago prob. early 1955
John Lee Hooker, vcl/gtr; Otis Finch, tbs; Bob Thurman, pno; poss unk b; Tom Whitehead, d. Issued in August, 1955.

I'm Your Hoochie Cooche Man
– Chess 1560 (#3)
Rec in Chicago January 7, 1954
Muddy Waters, vcl/gtr; Little Walter, hca; Otis Spann, pno; Jimmy Rogers, gtrs; poss. Willie Dixon, b; Elga Edmonds (or Fred Below), d. Issued in 1954.

Fifty Days & Forty Nights
– Chess 1630 (#7)
Rec in Chicago February 2, 1956
Muddy Waters, vcl; Little Walter, hca; Otis Spann, pno; Pat Hare & Hubert Sumlin, gtrs; Willie Dixon, b; Fred Below, d. Issued in 1956.

Close To You
– Chess 1704 She’s Nineteen Years Old
Rec in Chicago August, 1958
Muddy Waters, vcl; Little Walter (or poss James Cotton), hca; Otis Spann, pno; Pat Hare & Luther Tucker, gtrs; Willie Dixon, b; Francis Clay or poss George Hunter, d. Issued in 1958.

Southbound Train
– From Chess LP 1444 “Sings ‘Big Bill’”
Rec in Chicago June 1959
Muddy Waters, vcl; James Cotton, hca; Otis Spann, pno; Pat Hare, gtr; Andrew Stephens, b; Francis Clay, d. Issued in early 1960.
The “Super Greats” (from original ‘60s LPs)

Sweet Sixteen Pt. 1 & Pt. 2 – Kent 330 (#2)
Rec in Los Angeles October 26, 1959
B.B. King, vcl/gtr; with orchestra led by Maxwell Davis (tp, saxes, pno, b, d).
Single issued in early 1960. Also issued on Crown LP S143 (early 1960) where the two parts appear as one continued performance.

Boom Boom – Vee-Jay 438 (#16)
Rec in Chicago ca December, 1961
John Lee Hooker, vcl/gtr; Joe Edward Hunter, pno; Hank Cosby, ts; Andrew “Mike” Terry, bars; Larry Vender, gtr; James Jamerson, b; Benny Benjamin, d.

Got My Mojo Working (shortened) – Chess 1774
Rec in Newport, RI July 3, 1960
Muddy Waters, vcl/gtr; James Cotton, hca; Otis Spann, pno; Pat Hare, gtr; Andrew Stephens, b; Francis Clay, d.
Single issued in 1960. Originally on Chess LP 1449 (issued mid 1960) where a full version (titled part 1 and 2) appears as one performance. This song was also recorded by Muddy in studio in Chicago January 1957 (and issued on Chess 1652).

The 1960s

How Blue Can You Get – ABC-Paramount 10527 (#21, 1964)
Rec in New York September 10, 1963
B.B. King, vcl/gtr; Carl Adams, Kenneth Sands, tp; Lawrence Burdine, as; Vernone Slater, ts; Jerome Richardson, bars; Charles Brooks, pno; Leo Lauchie, b; Sonny Freeman, d.
Issued in late 1963.

Rock Me Baby – Kent 393 (#12)
Rec in Los Angeles March 18, 1964 (or poss 1962)
B.B. King, vcl/gtr; with Jimmy McCracklin, pno; Sonny Freeman, d.
Issued in 1964.

Paying The Cost To Be The Boss – BluesWay 61015 (#10)
Rec in Chicago March 1, 1960
John Lee Hooker, vcl/gtr; with unknown rhythm acc, poss featuring Wayne Bennett, gtr.
Issued in November, 1965.
(later titled It Serves Me Right To Suffer)
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

Great “Live” (in their prime)

B.B. King. vcl/gtr; with his Orchestra: Kenneth Sands,tp; John Watson,tb; Johnny Board and Bobby Forte,ts; Duke Jethro,pno: Leo Lauchie,b; Sonny Freeman,d. Produced by Johnny Pate

Tracks: Every Day I Have The Blues / Sweet Little Angel / It’s My Own Fault / How Blue Can You Get? / Please Love Me / You Upset Me Baby / Worry, Worry / Woke Up This Mornin’ / You Done Lost Your Good Thing Now / Help The Poor.

Live at Cafe au-Go-Go – BluesWay BLS 6002
Rec in New York August 30, 1966 – issued in early 1967

John Lee Hooker, vcl/gtr: with the Muddy Waters Blues Band: Otis Spann,pno; Muddy Waters, Sammy Lawhorn and Luther “Snake” Johnson,gtrs; Mac Arnold,b; Francis Clay,d; (George Smith,hca – not audible). Produced by Bob Thiele

Tracks: I’m Bad Like Jesse James / She’s Long, She’s Tall (She Weeps Like A Willow Tree) / When My First Wife Left Me / Heartaches And Misery / One Bourbon, One Scotch And One Beer / I Don’t Want No Trouble / I’ll Never Get Out Of These Blues Alive / Seven Days.

“Live” (at Mr. Kelly’s) – Chess LP CH 50012
Rec in Chicago June 11-12, 1971 – issued in Dec 1971

Muddy Waters, vcl/gtr; with his band: Paul Oscher, hca; James (“Joe Denim”) Cotton hca-1; Joe ‘Pinetop’ Perkins,pno; James ‘Pee Wee’ Madison, Sam Lawhorn,gtrs; Calvin Jones,b; Willie Smith,d. Produced by Ralph Bass

Tracks: What Is That She Got-1 / You Don’t Have To Go / Strange Woman-1 / Blow Wind Blow / Country Boy // Nine Below Zero / Stormy Monday Blues / Mudcat / Boom Boom-1 / C.C. Woman (CD issue has bonus tracks: She’s 19 Years Old / Long Distance Call).

The 1970s

The Thrill Is Gone – BluesWay 61032
Rec in New York October 8, 1969
B.B. King, vcl/gtr; Paul Harris,org/pno; Hugh McCracken,gtr; Gerry Jemmott,b; Herbie Lovelle,d; and strings. Single issued in late 1969 (hitting R&B #3 and Pop #1 in early 1970). Originally on BluesWay LP 6037 issued late 1969. Produced by Bill Szymczyk

Homework – on ABC LP 838
Rec in Los Angeles May 14, 1974
John Lee Hooker, vcl/gtr: Clifford Coutler, synthesizers and fender bass; Howard Roberts and Wb-Wb Watson, gtrs; Ron Beck,d. LP issued in 1974. Produced by Ed Michel

Can’t Get No Grindin’ – on Chess LP 50023
Rec in Chicago in March 1972
Muddy Waters, vcl; James Cotton, hca; Joe ‘Pinetop’ Perkins, harpsichord; James ‘Pee Wee’ Madison, Sam Lawhorn, gtrs; Calvin Jones,b; Willie Smith,d; band vcls. LP issued 1972. Track issued on single 2143 (1973). Produced by Ralph Bass
From Wikipedia:

Jimmy Rogers (June 3, 1924 – December 19, 1997) was a Chicago blues singer, guitarist and harmonica player, best known for his work as a member of Muddy Waters’s band in the early 1950s. He also had solos hits on the R&B chart with “That’s All Right” in 1950 and “Walking by Myself” in 1954. He withdrew from the music industry at the end of the 1950s but returned to recording and touring in the 1970s. Rogers was born James Arthur Lane in Ruleville, Mississippi, on June 3, 1924 and was raised in Atlanta and Memphis. He adopted his stepfather’s surname. He learned to play the harmonica with his childhood friend Snooky Pryor and as a teenager took up the guitar. He played professionally in East St. Louis, Illinois, with Robert Lockwood, Jr., among others. Rogers moved to Chicago in the mid-1940s. By 1946, Rogers had recorded as a harmonica player and singer for the Harlem label, run by J. Mayo Williams. Rogers’s name did not appear on the record, which was mislabeled as the work of Memphis Slim and His Houserockers (“Round About Boogie”).

In 1947, Rogers, Muddy Waters and Little Walter began playing together, constituting Waters’s first band in Chicago (sometimes referred to as the Headcutters or the Headhunters, because of their practice of stealing jobs from other local bands). The band members recorded and released music credited to each of them as solo artists. The band defined the sound of the nascent Chicago blues style (more specifically South Side Chicago blues). Rogers recorded several sides of his own with small labels in Chicago, but none were released at the time. He began to enjoy success as a solo artist with Chess Records in 1950, with the hit song “That’s All Right”, but he stayed in Waters’s band until 1954. In the mid-1950s he had several successful releases on the Chess label, most featuring either Little Walter or Big Walter Horton on harmonica, notably “Walking by Myself”. In the late 1950s, as interest in the blues waned, he gradually withdrew from the music industry.

In the early 1960s Rogers briefly worked as a member of Howlin’ Wolf’s band, before quitting the music business altogether for almost a decade. He worked as a taxicab driver and owned a clothing store, which burned down in the 1968 Chicago riots following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. He gradually began performing in public again, and in 1971, when fashions made him somewhat popular in Europe, he began occasionally touring and recording, including a 1977 session with Waters. By 1982, Rogers was again a full-time solo artist.

In 1995 Rogers was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame. He continued touring and recording albums until his death from colon cancer in Chicago in 1997. He was survived by his son, Jimmy D. Lane, a guitarist and a record producer and recording engineer for Blue Heaven Studios and APO Records.

Both sides of Chess 1435 were recorded August 15, 1950 with Rogers, vcl/gtr. Little Walter, hca, Big Crawford, bs.

“The Last Time” was recorded August 12, 1952 with Rogers, vcl/gtr. Henry Gray, pno; Bob Woodfork, gtr; Willie Dixon, bs; A.J. Gladney, dms.

“Chicago Bound” was recorded January 7, 1954 with Rogers, vcl/gtr. Little Walter, hca, Sunnyland Slim, pno; Johnnie Jones, pno; Muddy Waters, vcl/gtr; Willie Dixon, bs; Odie Payne, dms.

“Walking By Myself” was recorded October 29, 1956 with Rogers, vcl/gtr. Walter Horton, hca; Otis Spann, pno; Robert Jr Lockwood, gtr; Willie Dixon, bs; A.J. Gladney or Fred Below, dms.

Jimmy Rogers played on records in 1946-1961 by Memphis Slim, Lee Brown, Little Walter, Otthum Brown, Muddy Waters, Baby Face Leroy Foster, Johnny Shines, Floyd Jones, Eddie Ware, T-Bone Walker, Sunnyland Slim, Leroy Jackson, and Howlin’ Wolf beside many fine recordings with his own group The Rocking Four. His first own recording were unissued waxings for Ora Nelle, Regal, TempoTone and Apollo in the late 1940s and in 1950 he started his career for Chess.
THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

THE TWELVE GREAT LEGENDS

The R&B Pioneers Series - Volume Five of twelve
THE TOP TWO

“Father of Blues” and “Mr. Blues”
ON THE WEB (as of September 24, 2011) and do check  http://www.wirz.de/music/america.htm

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T-Bone_Walker
http://www.allaboutjazz.com/artist/t-bone-walker-p27828
http://www.sonnyboy.com/
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sonny_Boy_Williamson_II
http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sonny-Boy-Williamson-II/110554839417897
http://www.nanton.com.br/sonnyboy/
http://www.mmbreviews.com/review/2002/sonnyboywilliamson2-3-02-c
http://www.the-blindman.com/Archives/sonnyboy.htm
http://www.bluesnews.fi/bluestahdet_sonnyboywilliamson.htm
http://www.bluesharp.ca/legends/boywill.html

http://www.facebook.com/pages/Elmore-Wolf/105721599461319
http://www.howlingwolfphotos.com/
http://www.wpnet.org/Howlin_Wolf.htm
http://www.mswritersandmusicians.com/musicians/howlin-wolf.html

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Walter
http://www.facebook.com/pages/Little_Walter/113295512017879
http://www.bluesharp.ca/legends/walter.html

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sonny_Boy_Williamson_II
http://www.allmusic.com/artist/sonnyboywilliamson-p556
http://www.hoyhoy.com/artists.htm
http://www.facebook.com/pages/Big-Joe-Williamson-107941555895004
http://www.cascadeblues.org/History/BigJoeTurner.htm
http://www.soulfulkindamusic.net/turner.htm
http://www.howsheboywill.htm
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