Special Supplement: Top 30 Favorites

- featuring the Super Legends’ Ultimate CD compilations, their very first albums, * and ± .. plus their most classic singles.

Top Rhythm & Blues Records
- The Top R&B Hits from 30 classic years of Rhythm & Blues

THE Blues Giants of the 1950s
THE Top Ten Vocal Groups of the Golden ’50s
Ten Sepia Super Stars of Rock ’n’ Roll
Transitions from Rhythm to Soul – Twelve Original Soul Icons
The True R&B Pioneers – Twelve Hit-Makers of the Early Years
Predecessors of the Soul Explosion in the 1960s
Clyde McPhatter – The Original Soul Star
The John Lee Hooker Session Discography
The Clown Princes of Rock and Roll: The Coasters
Those Hoodlum Friends – The Coasters
The R&B Pioneers Series: find them all at
The Great R&B-files Created by Claus Röhnisch
http://www.rhythm-and-blues.info

Vol 1.  Top Rhythm & Blues Records
   The Top R&B Hits from 30 classic years of Rhythm & Blues

Vol 2.  The John Lee Hooker Session Discography
   Complete discography, year-by-year recap, CD-Guide, and more
   John Lee Hooker – The World’s Greatest Blues Singer

Vol 3.  The Clown Princes of Rock and Roll
   Todd Baptista’s great Essay on The Coasters, completed with Singles Discography, Chart Hits, Session Discography, and much more

Vol 4.  Those Hoodlum Friends – THE COASTERS
   A Super Size Presentation of the first vocal group to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

Vol 5.  THE Blues Giants of the 1950s
   Twelve Great Legends
   T-Bone Walker, Big Joe Turner, Lowell Fulson, Roy Brown, John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters, Sonny Boy Williamson, Howlin’ Wolf, Elmore James, Little Walter, Jimmy Reed, B. B. King

Vol 6.  THE Top Ten Vocal Groups of the Golden ’50s
   Rhythm & Blues Harmony (with links to youtube audio/videos)
   The Dominoes, Clovers, “5” Royales, Midnighters, Flamengos, Moonglow, Drifters, Platters, Cadillacs, Coasters

Vol 7.  Ten Sepia Super Stars of Rock ’n’ Roll
   Idols Making Music History
   Fats Domino, Little Richard, Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Ruth Brown, Lavern Baker, Clyde McPhatter, Jesse Belvin, Bobby Day, Lloyd Price

Vol 8.  Transitions from Rhythm to Soul
   Twelve Original Soul Icons
   Ray Charles, Sam Cooke, Jackie Wilson, Little Willie John, Brook Benton, Etta James, Rufus Thomas, Junior Parker, Bobby Bland, Johnny “Guitar” Watson, King Curtis, James Brown

Vol 9.  The True R&B Pioneers
   Twelve Hit-Makers from the Early Years

Vol 10. Predecessors of the Soul Explosion in the 1960s
   Twelve Famous Favorites
   Joe Tex, Solomon Burke, Wilson Pickett, Otis Redding, Aretha Franklin, Marvin Gaye, The Dells, Isley Brothers, Four Tops, Impressions, Miracles, Temptations

Vol 11.  The R&B Pioneers: Top 30 Favorites
   The R&B Pioneers Series
   Special feature covering the editor’s favorite pioneers with CD’s and singles.

Vol 12.  Clyde McPhatter – the Original Soul Star
   Clyde McPhatter presented in detail – an extraordinary Pioneers’ feature.
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<td>Sonny Boy Williamson</td>
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The R&B Pioneers Series
The Great R&B Files  aka  The R&B Pioneers Series  (#13-30)
The History of Rhythm & Blues ...

“from Roy Brown to James Brown”

part one:
.... their Ultimate CD compilations

Note: All of the presented CDs are packed with multi-paged biographical essays, and discographical details.
Roy Brown:
and Good Rocking Tonight (1CD 1947-1957) Rhino R2 71545 (1994)
Sonny Boy Williamson: The Chess Years (4CD-set 1955-1964) Charly RED Box 1 (1991),
Blues Masters (1CD 1963) Storyville STCD 8012 (1991),
Down And Out Blues (2CD 1951-1958) Not Now NOT2CD356 (2010),
B. B. King: The Vintage Years (4CD box 1950-1965) Ace ABOXCD 8 (2002),
King of The Blues (4CD box 1949-1991) MCA D4-10677 (1991),
The Single As and Bs 1952-1960 (2CD) Jasmine JASMCD 3015-6 (2011)
and The Blues World of... (1CD 1950) Delmark DD-648 (1993)
The complete Chess Masters Series:

**Muddy Waters:** Rollin’ Stone (2CD 1947-1952) MCA 088112301-2 (2000),
The R&B Pioneers Series

The Big Joe Turner Anthology – Big Bad & Blue (3CD 1938-1983) Rhino R2 71550 (1994)

The R&B Pioneers Series

Charlie Thomas, Dick Green, Tommy Evans (bottom), and Rudy Lewis (1951-63)

**The Drifters Box:** Rockin’ and Driftin’ (3CD box 1953-1976) Rhino R2 72417 (1996),
All The Singles 1953-1958 plus bonus tracks (2CD) Jasmine JASCD 526 (2009)
Harold Lucas, Harold Winley, guitarist Bill Harris, Buddy Bailey, and Matthew McQueer (ca. 1952).

**The Clovers:** The Feelin’ Is Good (2CD 1950-1959) Jasmine JASCD 576 (2011)
clockwise from left: guitarist Alonzo Tucker, Charles Sutton, Sonny Woods, Lawson Smith (Henry Booth not present), and Hank Ballard (1954).

**Hank Ballard and The Midnighters:** Nothing But Good (5CD box 1952-1962)
Bear Family BCD 16795 EK (2009)

The R&B Pioneers Series

The Complete Chess Recordings:

and Rock And Roll Music-Any Old Way You Choose It / The Complete Studio Recordings...Plus
LaVern Baker: la vern (her very first LP on CD, 1953-56) Sequel RSA CD 909 (1997)
- reissued as Walking To New Orleans on Capitol 37374 (2002)  
The Classic Years (3CD set ABC-Paramount 1960-1971) Castle Communications ESBCD 144 (1991),
The RCA Albums Collection (8CD box 1960-1963) RCA 88697898702 (2011)
and Louis Jordan and his Tympany Five (SCD set 1938-1950) JSp CD 905 (2001)
Mario De la Garde, Pete Lewis, Leonard Bell, Johny Otis, plus Preston Love, prob James Von Slueter or Lorenzo Holden, prob Don Johnson, and Devonia Williams at the piano (ca 1951-52).

- reissued 2004 and with different cover 2007 (Polydor 0600753022498),
The Editors’ Top 30: Credits on the Best CD Compilations

- presented in approximate order of the performers’ recording debuts –

Please note that the discographical information is not always correct on the super-great compilations presented here.

102 tracks with all of his greatest recordings for Decca. Produced and compiled by Joop Visser, who also is responsible for the liner notes and the discography. 40-page booklet.

129 tracks for Columbia, Mercury, Capitol, Black & White, Comet, Imperial and the 14 Atlantic tracks. All hits included. 14-page booklet with liner notes by Paul Watts. This compilation has 54 more tracks than the Fantastic Voyage 3-set CD “You’re My Best Poker Hand – The Definitive Collection” with liner notes by Neil Slaven.


50 essential tracks selected by Neil Slaven featuring recordings for Gold Star, DeLuxe, King, Imperial, and Home of the Blues – including all of his R&B hits (“Good Rocking Tonight” made it twice – so it is actually 17). 12-page booklet by Neil Slaven.


Sonny Boy Williamson: The Chess Years (4CD 1955-1964) Charly RED Box 1 (1991) 89 tracks on this now deleted perfect CD-set with (almost) all of his Checker recordings, compiled by Neil Slaven and Leslie Fancourt. 16-page booklet.


The Complete "S" Royales 1951-1962 - Soul & Swagger (2CD box Rock Beat 3101 (2014) 141 tracks with all their recordings – Apollo (including Royal Sons Quintet), King, and Home of the Blues (including Vee-Jay and ABC-Paramount). Produced by James Austin and Bill Dahi, who also both wrote the liner notes (with Steve Cropper and Tom McCollough – the latter also providing the discographical information). 124-page book.


The R&B Pioneers’ Very First Albums

Presented in approx. chronological order of original album issue (Part 1). Chuck Berry’s first album issued on v.a. LP 1425 (before the 1426 album). Midnighters’ album titled “Sing Their Hits” as issue.

- Capitol H-370 (1953) 10 inch
- Imperial LP 9004 (March 1956)
- Apollo LP 486 (1956)
- Atlantic 1234 (July 1956)
- Atlantic 1248 (1956)
- Atlantic 8002 (Dec 1956)
- Atlantic 8003 (1956)
- Mercury MG-20242 (1957)
- Specially SR-100 (March 1957)
- Crown CLP 5020 (June 1957)
- Chess LP 1426 (Oct 1957)
- King 607 (1957) (there was also vol 2, King 627)
- Atlantic 8006 (1957)
- Chess LP 1427 (late 1957)
The R&B Pioneers' Very First Albums
Presented in appr. chronological order of original album issue (Part 2)

Chess LP 1428 (Oct 1957)
Atco 33-101 (Nov 1957)
Dig LP-104 (1957)

Chess LP 1431 (early 1958)
Vee-Jay LP 1004 (1958)
Keen A 2001 (Feb 1958)

Brunswick BL 54042 (March 1958)
Chess LP 1434 (1958)
King 610 (Jan 1959)

Checker LP 1437 (early 1959)
Vee-Jay LP 1007 (Aug 1959)
Crown CLP 5168 (1960)

Duke DLP 72 (1961)
Argo LP 40003 (1961)
Gordy G 911 (1964)
The Second Albums of the R&B Pioneers
Presented in appr. chronological order of original album issue (Part 1).

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<td>Atlantic 8020</td>
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The R&B Pioneers Series

The Second Albums of the R&B Pioneers

Presented in approx. chronological order of original album issue (Part 2)

Brunswick BL 54045 (Feb 1959)
Checker LP 1438 (July 1959)
Vee-Jay LP 1008 (Sept 1959)

Atco 33-111 (Oct 1959)
Chess LP 1438 (Oct 1959)
King 635 (late 1959)

Chess LP 1444 (early 1960)
Crown CLP 5209 (1961)
Duke DLP 74 (1961)

Chess LP 1469 (1962)
Gordy G 912 (March 1965)
SphereSound LP 7002 (1965)

Chess LP 1503 (1965)
King 956 (1966)
Chess LP 1535 (1969)
Top 30 Favorite Artists’ Most Classic Ones: Presented Chronological

1945 - 1951

Louis Jordan And His Tympany Five: Caldonia (F. Moore, who was Jordan's wife) - Decca 8670 A (NYC January 19, 1945) R&B#1 (7w) May 1945

Walker, vcl/hn; Altonaas, Leonard Graham, tp; Freddie Simon, ts; William Austin, p; Al Morgan, b; Alex Mitchell, d. Producer: Milt Gabler (BAP 66)

T-Bone Walker And His Guitar: Call It Stormy Monday But Tuesday Is Just As Bad (Walker) – Black & White 122 B (LA September 13, 1947) R&B#5 January 1948

Walker, vcl/guitar; Teddy Buckner, tp; Bumps Myers, bs; Lloyd Glenn, p; Arthur Edwards, b; Oscar Lee Bradley, d. Producer: Ralph Bass

Johnny Otis Quintette, Vocals By The Robins and Little Esther: Double Crossing Blues (Johnny Otis; later also Jessie Mae Robinson)

Savoy 731-A (LA December 1, 1949) R&B#1 (9w) February 1950

Otis, vcl; Devenia Williams, p; Pete Lewis, g; Mario Delagarde, b; Leard Bell, d.

The Robins, vclds (Bobby Nunn, bass vcl; Terrell Leonard, Billy Richard, Roy Richard); Little Esther (Jones), lead vcl. Producer: Ralph Bass (BAP 83)


Brown, vcl; Wilber Harden, tp; Jimmy Griffin, ts; Johnny Fontennette, tb; Harry Porter, bs; Edward Griffin, p; Walter Redding, b. Producer: Henry Glover

The Clovers, vcl/guitar; Clifton James, d; Jerome Green, mrcs

1952 - 1954

Little Walter and his Night Cats: Juice (Little Walter) – Checker 758 (Chicago May 12, 1952) R&B#1 (8w) September 1952

Walter, harmonica; Muddy Waters and Jimmy Rogers, gtrs; Elga Edmonds, d. Producer: Leonard Chess and poss Willie Dixon. (BAP 188)

The "5" Royales with Charlie Furbank, His Tenor and Orchestra: Baby Don't Do It (Lowman Pauling) – Apollo 443 (NYC October 30, 1952) R&B#1 (3w) January 1953

The "5" Royales, vclds (Johnny Tanner, lead; Jimmy Moore, Otto Jeffries, Obadiah Carter, Lowman Pauling, g;)

Charlie Furbank, ts; J. J. Johnson, p; Peck Morrison, b; Herb Lovelle, d. Producers: Carl Liddell and poss Bess Besman (BAP 203)

Joe Turner and his Band: Honey Hush (Brown; later Lou Willie Turner) – Atlantic 1001 (NO May 12, 1953) R&B#1 (8w) September 1953

Joe Turner, vcl; Frank Mitchell and Tommy Sheldon, tps; Pluma Davis, ts; Auguste Dupont, as; Warren Hebrand, ts; Kathy Thomas (or poss James Tolliver), p;

Edgar Blanchard, g; John Fernandez, b; Alonzo Stewart, d. Producers: Joe Turner. (BAP 138)

Clyde McPhatter and The Drifters: Money Honey (J. Stone) – Atlantic 1006 (NYC August 9, 1953) R&B#1 (11w) October 1953

The Drifters, vclds (Clyde McPhatter, lead; Gerhart Thrasher, Andrew Thrasher, Bill Pinkney, Willie Furbie, Walter Adams, g;)

Sam Taylor, bs; prob Jesse Stone or poss Harry Van Walls, g; Mickey Baker, g; unknown b and d. Producers: Ahmet Ertegun & Jerry Wexler; arranger: Jesse Stone (BAP 85)

Muddy Waters and his Guitar: I'm Your Hoochie Cooche Man (M. Waters; later Willie Dixon) – Chess 1560 (Chicago January 7, 1954) R&B#3 (1w) March 1954

Muddy Waters, vcl/gtr; Little Walter, hica; Otis Spann, p; Jimmy Rogers, g; Willie Dixon, poss b; Elga Edmonds or poss Fred Below, d. Producers: Leonard Chess & Willie Dixon

1954 - 1955

The Midnighters, Formerly known as The Royalys: Work With Me Annie (Henry Ballard) – Federal 12169 (Cincinnati, Ohio January 14, 1954) R&B#1 (7w) April 1954

The Midlanders, vcls (Hank Ballard, lead; Charles Sutton, Henry Booth, Sonny Woods, prob Alonzo Tucker, g or b);

Robert Darby, ts; Sonny Thompson, p; Arthur Porter, g or b; Robert Boswell, d. Producers: Ralph Bass and poss Henry Glover (BAP 71)

Ray Charles and his Band – I've Got A Woman (Ray Charles; later also Ronald Richard) – Atlantic 1059 (Atlanta, Georgia November 18, 1954) R&B#1 (1w) January 1955

Ray Charles, vcl; Joe Bridgewater and Charles Whitfield, bs; Don Wilkerson, tps; David "Fathead" Newman, b; Wesley Jackson, g; Jimmy Bell, b; Glenn Brooks, d.

Producers: Ahmet Ertegun and Jerry Wexler with prob Ray Charles & Renald Richard (BAP 81)

Bo Diddley, Bo Diddley (E. McKinnis) – Checker 814 (Chicago March 23, 1955) R&B#1 (2w) May 1955

Bo Diddley, vcl/guitar; Clifton James, d; Jerome Green, mrcs. Producer: Prob Leonard Chess and poss Willie Dixon (BAP 154)

Fats Domino: Ain't It A Shame (A. Domino & D. Bartholomew) – Imperial 5348 (note: Los Angeles March 15, 1955) R&B#1 (1w) May 1955 (BAP 5)

Domino, vcl/gtr, Buddy Greco, Samuel Lee and Herb Hardesty, ts; Walter Nelson, g; Frank Fields, b; Cornelius Coleman, d. Producers: Lew Chudd & Dave Bartholomew

"Sonny Boy" Williamson: Don't Start Me Talkin' (Williamson) – Checker 824 (Chicago August 12, 1955) R&B#3 (1w) October 1955

Sonny Boy, vcl/harmonica; Otis Spann, p; Muddy Waters and Jody Williams (or poss Jimmy Rogers), g; Willie Dixon, b; Fred Below, d.

Producers: Leonard Chess and prob Willie Dixon

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The R&B Pioneers Series
Little Richard And His Band: Tutt-Flutti (LaVernie - Penniman; later also Joe Rubin) – Specialty YSP-561 (NO September 14, 1955) R&B#2 (6w) November 1955
Little Richard, vcl/piano; Lee Allen, ts; Alvin "Red" Tyler, b; Justin Adams, g; Frank Fields, b; Earl Palmer, d. Producer: Bumps Blackwell (BAP 46)

Howlin' Wolf: Smoke Stack Lightning (C. Burnett) – Chess 1618 (Chicago January 1956) R&B#8 March 1956
Wolf, vcl/harmonica; Homer Lee Kennard, p; Willie Johnson and Hubert Sumlin, g; Willie Dixon, b; Earl Phillips, d. Producers: Leonard Chess and prob Willie Dixon

LaVernie Baker and The Gliders with Orchestra: Jim Dandy (Chase) – Atlantic 1116 (NYC December 21, 1955) R&B#1 (1w) December 1955 (a year after recording)
LaVern Baker, vcl; Sam Taylor, ts; Dave McRae, bs; prob Ernie Haynes, p; prob Mickey Baker, g; Lloyd Trotman, b; unknown d;

The Gliders, vcl (Edward Barnes, Abel de la Costa, Oliver Jones, Robie "Wellfield Scott" Kirk, Jimmie Breedlove). Producers: Jerry Wexler and Ahmet Ertegun (BAP 77)

Chuck Berry: Johnny B. Goode (C. Berry) – Chess 1693 (Chicago prob December 30, 1957 or prob January 6, 1958) R&B#2 (3w) May 1958
Berry, vcl/guitar plus extra overdubbed gtr; Lafayette Leake, or (prob Johnnie Johnson), p; Willie Dixon, b; Fred Below, d. Producer: Leonard Chess (BAP 115)

The Coasters: Yakety Yak (Berry, vcl/guitar plus extra overdubbed gtr)

Chuck Berry: Johnny B. Goode

SMOKE WITH CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA CONDUCTED BY

Top 30

Ch H & His Orchestra: Sweet Sixteen Pt. 1 & Pt. 2

B. B. King and His Orchestra: Sweet Sixteen Pt. 1 & Pt. 2

(NYC October 5, 1958) R&B#1 (7w)

Jackie Wilson with chorus and orchestra conducted by Dick Jacobs: Lonely Teardrops (Berry Gordy Jr. – Tyron Carter; later also Gordy–Lordon) – Brunswick 9-56105 (NYC October 5, 1958) R&B#1 (7w) November 1958
Wilson, vcl; with unknown orchestra including Dave Hamilton, g. Producers: Nat Tarnopol and Dick Jacobs (BAP 10)

B. B. King and His Orchestra: Sweet Sixteen Pt. 1 & Pt. 2 (King – Josefa; later Ertegun) – Kent 330 (LA October 26, 1959) R&B#2 (1w) November 1960
King, vcl/guitar; with either Maxwell Davis and his studio orchestra or King's road band, which included Kenneth Sands and Henry Boozler, ts; Pluma Davis, b; Lawrence Burdine, as; Johnny Board, ts; Barney Hubert, bs; Millard Lee, g; Marshall York, b; Sonny Freeman, d. Producer: prob Max Bihari and prob Maxwell Davis

Elmore James, vcl/guitar; J.T. Brown and prob Boyd Atkins, bs; Johnny Jones, p; Homesick James, b; Odie Payne or Sam Myers, d. Producer: Bobby Robinson

Etta James: I Just Want To Make Love To You (W. Dixon) – Argo 5380 (Chicago May 1960) -flip of the "At Last" hit R&B#2 (1w) January 1961
Etta James, vcl; Riley Hampton's orchestra featuring bs, ts, p, g, d, strings. Producer: Ralph Bass (and prob Willie Dixon)

Bland, vcl; Joe Scott and Melvin Lastie, ts; Pluma Davis, b; Jimmy Beck, a, ca; Rayfield Devers, b; Teddy Reynolds, p; Wayne Bennett, g; Hamp Simmons, b; Jabo Starks, d. Producer: Don Robey and Joe Scott

1955 - 1958

1958 - 1960

1961 - 1965


R&B#1 (8w) July 1965
Brown, vcl; Ron Tooley, Joe Dupars and Levi Rasbury, bs; prob unidentified, b; Nat Jones, as; St. Clair Pinkey, Eldine Williams and Al "Brisco" Clark, a, ca; Maceo Parker, ts, bs; Jimmy Nolen, g; Sam Thomas, a; Melvin Palmer, d (The Flames not present, and no piano). Producer: James Brown

General note: Month and year given after R&B hit Ranking indicates the month the record first entered the national R&B Charts. Composer credits as on the original single. Producers not always confirmed.
The R&B Pioneers’ Very First Singles (Part 1).
Presented in order of recording date – debuts under their own “tags”. Several of the artists debuted much earlier with bands, vocal groups or under other names, marked + , in lesser degree (+). rc = recording debut.

- N.Y. Dec 20, 1938
  rc w The Jungle Band for Brunswick in 1929

- N.Y. Dec 30, 1938
  rc at Carnegie Hall Dec 23, 1938 “It’s All Right Baby”

- L.A. July 20, 1942
  rc: Dallas Dec 5, 1939 as Oak Cliff T-Bone

+ L.A. Sept 13, 1945
  rc: L.A. July 1945 w Wynonie Harris

Houston early 1947

+ Chicago late 1947
  rc: Stovall, Ms Aug 1947 “Country Blues”

Chicago late 1947

Detroit Sept 3, 1948
  rc: Detroit June 12, 1948

Memphis late 1949

N.O. Dec 10, 1949
  rc: Seattle Nov 1948 for DownBeat w The Maxin Trio

+ L.A. early 1950
  rc: May 14, 1951 “Baby Ride With Me”

N.Y. 1950
  (45 reissue here)

Jackson, Ms Jan 4 (March 12) 1951

Memphis July 1951
  rc: May 14, 1951 “Baby Ride With Me”

Jackson, Ms Aug 1951
The R&B Pioneers’ Very First Singles (Part 2)

Presented in order of recording date – debuts under their own “tags”. Several of the artists debuted much earlier with bands, vocal groups or under other names marked +, in lesser degree (+). rc = recording debut.

Atlanta, Ga Oct 16, 1951

Memphis ca Nov 1951
rc Memphis October 16, 1951

‡ N.Y. Aug 5, 1952
‡ Winston-Salem, NC August 1951
‡ as The Royal Sons Quartet

Chicago June 6, 1953
rc w John Brim and Eddie Taylor for Parrot 1953

‡ N.Y. June 19, 1953
‡ as Little Mike Shannon w Eddie Parham
‡ Chicago Feb 25, 1949 “Easy Baby” for RCA

‡ Cincinnati Jan 14, 1954
‡ Hank Ballard rc w The Royals May 10, 1952

‡ Chicago Feb 4, 1956
‡ Cincinnati

‡ L.A. Nov 25, 1954

‡ L.A. March 2, 1955
‡ L.A. Jan 11, 1956
‡ Carl Gardner rc w The Robins for Spark
‡ L.A. early ‘54 “2 Tweedrugs (Wake-Knees)”

‡ L.A. June 1, 1957
‡ L.A. March 1, 1951 w The Soul Stirrers
‡ “Jesus Gave Me Water”, first secular N.O., Dec 12, 1955 “Lovable” as Dale Cook, both for Specialty

‡ L.A. June 1, 1957
‡ L.A. July 12, 1957
‡ Detroit 1953 w Don Wilson for DeDee
‡ “Danny Boy” c/w “Rainy Day Blues”

‡ Detroit July 1961
‡ Oakland, CA June 1959
‡ “Come On” for Northern
The R&B Pioneers Series

The presentations herein (and in the whole series) are continuously updated by Claus Röhnisch.

The CDs here are "handpicked" from regular U.S. and Europe releases (some may be hard to get today); and from European "public domain" releases (up to and including 1962 recordings).

Bio and disco data is checked both once and twice, and the single records imaged are selected from the most popular and classic ones. Several of the singles images are later repressions (although mostly keeping true to original label credits).

Five “extra special” top favorite classic singles (see pages 42-43 for 30 favorites)
- the chronological placings of the alternates are marked on those pages.

The BAP rankings of the 1940’s/1950’s indicate the rankings in Big Al Pavlows’ "The R&B Book".

Joe Turner and his Blues Kings: Shake, Rattle And Roll (Calhoun, that's Jesse Stone) – Atlantic 1026 (NYC February 15, 1954) R&B #1 (3w) May 1954 Turner, vcl; unknown tp; Wilbur DeParis,tb; Sam Taylor,ts; Haywood Henry,bs; Harry "Van" Walls,p; Mickey Baker,g; Lloyd Trotman,b; Connie Kay,d; Jesse Stone, Ahmet Ertegun and Jerry Wester,backing vcls. Producers: Ertegun, Wester, Stone (BAP 146)

Fats Domino: Blueberry Hill (Lewis, Stock & Rose) – Imperial 5407 (note: Los Angeles June 21, 1956) R&B #1 (11w) October 1956 Domino, vcl/piano; Wendell Duconge,as; Buddy Hagens and Eddie Silvers,ts; Walter Nelson,g; Lawrence Guyton,b; Cornelius Coleman,d. Producers: Lew Chudd and prob Dave Bartholomew (BAP 4)

The Coasters: Searchin' (Leiber-Stoller) – Atco 6087 (Los Angeles February 15, 1957) R&B #1 (12w, plus 1w for flip "Young Blood) May 1957 The Coasters, vcls (Billy Guy,lead; Carl Gardner, Bobby Nunn; and Young Jessie – subbing for Leon Hughes; plus Adolph Jacobs,gt); Mike Stoller,pno; Barney Kessel,gtr; Ralph Hamilton,b; Jessie Bales,d; Joe Olveretas,perc; and poss Chico Guerrero,cga. Producers: Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller (BAP 1)

The Drifters: There Goes My Baby (Nelson-Patterson-Treadwell, later also Leiber-Stoller) – Atlantic 2025 (NYC March 6, 1959) R&B #1 (1w) July 1959 The Drifters, vcls (Ben E. King,Nelson, lead; Charlie Thomas, Dock Green, Elsbeary Hobbs, Reggie Kimber,g); with strings prob arranged and conducted by Stan Applebaum and unknown rhythm accomp. Producers: Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller (BAP 35)

Ray Charles And His Orchestra: What’d I Say Part I and Part II (Ray Charles) – Atlantic 2031 (NYC February 18, 1959) R&B #1 (1w) July 1959 Charles, vcl/piano; Marcus Belgrave and poss John Hunt,bs; David "Fathead" Newman,ats; Hank Crawford,bs; Edgar Willis,b; Milton Turner,d; The Raylettes (later known as The Raelets),vcls (Margie Hendrix, Priscilla "Pat" Mosley Lyles and Ethel "Darlene" McCrea and poss Gwendolyn Berry, Mae Mosaly-Lyles or Ruby Roberson). Producers: Jerry Wester and Ahmet Ertegun (BAP 18)

Do you want to insert your own favorite or choose from these:

- Wail Man Wail // The Best of King Curtis 1952-1961 (featuring one CD of his recordings of his own, plus two great ones as a "side-man")
- Fantastic Voyage (3CD) FVTD1088 (September 2012). Liner notes by Dave Penny.
- Discography by Michael Cuscona, Steve Lavere, and Michel Ruppli.
The History of Rhythm & Blues ...

“from Roy Brown to James Brown”

part two:
.... with basic bios and classic singles.

Note: Most birth and death data ctsy Bob Eagle and Eric LeBlanc
The R&B Pioneers Series

2CD JASMCJ 3032-3 (51-60), 2CD JASMCJ 3034-5 (53-61), Not Jasmine: (Real Gone Music),
1CD JASCD 991 (61-62)

2CD JASMCJ 3072 (52-62), 2CD JASCD 376 (50-59), 2CD JASCD 557 (50-58),
1CD JASCD 919 (60-62)

2CD JASMCJ 3098 (47-58), 2CD JASCD 152 (57-60), 2CD JASCD 569 (54-59),
1CD JASCD 930 (60-61)

2CD JASMCJ 3013-4 (55-60), 2CD JASCD 564 (51-60), 1CD JASMCJ 2561 (40-49),
2CD JASCD 151 (55-58)

1CD JASMCJ 3010 (55-59), Not Jasmine: (Capitol), Temptations Not on Jasmine,
2CD JASCD 784 (53-59)

Compiler: Bob Fisher
Roy Brown

*Kinder (near New Orleans), Louisiana 1920 (moved to Houston, Texas – aged 14)

Los Angeles, California 1981
John Lee Hooker

*Tutwiler, near Clarksdale, Mississippi 1912 (or poss 1917)  ±Los Altos, California 2001
T-Bone Walker

CALL IT STORMY MONDAY
BUT TUESDAY IS
JUST AS BAD
(Walker)

BLACK & WHITE

T-BONE WALKER
and his Guitar with
LLOYD C. GLENN, Piano
ARTHUR W. EDWARDS, Bass
"BUMPS" MYERS, Tenor Sax
JOHN E. BUCKNER, Trumpet
OSCAR LEE BRADLEY, Drums

122 B
(BW 637)

*Linden, Texas 1910

†Los Angeles, California 1975
“Sonny Boy” Williamson

*Money, between Glendora and Greenwood Mississippi 1912

#Helena, Arkansas 1965

The R&B Pioneers Series 53
B.B. King

* Bear Creek, Berclair, near Itta Bena, Mississippi 1925 (raised in Indianola, Miss)  
  #Las Vegas, Nevada 2015
Little Walter

*Marksville, Louisiana 1930 (raised in Alexandria, Louisiana)

±Chicago, Illinois 1968
Muddy Waters

*Issaquena County, near Rolling Fork, Mississippi 1913, raised at Stovall Plantation

#Chicago, Illinois 1983
Howlin’ Wolf

*White Station near West Point, Mississippi 1910

±Chicago, Illinois 1976
Big Joe Turner

*Kansas City, Kansas 1911

#Inglewood, California 1985
Jimmy Reed

* Dunleith (near Leland), Mississippi 1925

# Oakland, California 1976
Elmore James

*Richland (near Canton), Mississippi 1918

†Chicago, Illinois 1963
The Coasters

Group formed in Los Angeles, California 1955; relocated to New York City 1958
Carl Gardner: *Texas 1928 ±Florida 2011
Billy Guy: *Texas 1936 ±Nevada 2002
The Drifters

Group formed in New York City 1953, re-organised 1958
Clyde McPhatter: *North Carolina 1932 ± New York City 1972
Charlie Thomas: *Virginia 1937
Ben E. King: *North Carolina 1938 ± New Jersey 2015
Rudy Lewis: *Pennsylvania 1936 ± New York City 1964
The “5” Royales

Group formed as The Royal Sons Quintet in Winston Salem, North Carolina 1950
Lowman Pauling: *North Carolina 1926 +New York City 1973
Johnny Tanner: *North Carolina 1926 =North Carolina 2005
Gene Tanner: *1936 ±1994

The R&B Pioneers Series
The Clovers

Group formed in Washington, D.C. 1950
Charlie White: *poss Baltimore, Maryland ca 1930 #prob New York 1960s/1970s
Hank Ballard & The Midnighters

Group formed as The Royals in Detroit, Michigan 1952
Hank Ballard:  *Detroit, Michigan 1927 (moved to Alabama – back in Detroit 1941-42)
±Los Angeles, California 2003
The Temptations

Group formed in Detroit, Michigan 1961

Otis Williams: *Texas 1941
Eddie Kendricks: *Alabama 1939 #Alabama 1992
Paul Williams: *Alabama 1939 #Detroit, Mich 1973
David Ruffin: *Mississippi 1941 #Pennsylvania 1991
Dennis Edwards: *Alabama 1943 #Chicago, Ill 2018
Chuck Berry

*St. Louis, Missouri 1926

+St. Charles County, Missouri 2017
Bo Diddley

*McComb, Mississippi 1928 (raised in Chicago)

#Archer, Florida 2008
LaVern Baker

*Chicago, Illinois 1929, moved to Detroit in 1947

=New York City 1997
Little Richard

*Macon, Georgia 1932*
Fats Domino

*New Orleans, Louisiana 1928

Harvey, Louisiana 2017
Ray Charles

*Albany, Georgia 1930 (raised in Florida)
Jackie Wilson

*Detroit, Michigan 1934

#Burlington, New Jersey 1984 (after nine years hospitality)
Sam Cooke

*near Clarksdale, Mississippi 1931 (raised in Chicago)

±Los Angeles, California 1964
Etta James

*Los Angeles, California 1938

#Riverside, California 2012
Bobby “Blue” Bland

*Rosemark, Tennessee 1930

±Memphis, Tennessee 2013
Louis Jordan and his Tympany Five

Louis Jordan:
*Brinkley, Arkansas 1907 (or poss 1908)

Los Angeles, California 1975

The R&B Pioneers Series
Johnny Otis Orchestra

Johnny Otis:
*Valejo, California 1921

Altadena (L.A. area) California 2013

Johnny Otis Orchestra

Johnny Otis Quintette
Vocals by The Robins and Little Esther
731-A
(SLA-4456-2)
James Brown and the Famous Flames

James Brown:
* Barnwell, South Carolina 1933 (raised in Augusta, Georgia)

# Atlanta, Georgia 2006

The R&B Pioneers Series 79
The Great Biographies I (Blues & Soul)
Several in new editions
- newest editions imaged

(inserted right 2005, 2005 and right the "Authorized" 1984)
The Great Biographies II (Rock & Soul)
Several in new editions
- newest editions imaged
  (inserted: the first "social" and first "contemporary"
  - 1999 and 1992 editions, plus a great encyclopedia 2001)

2007
1975
2001
2004
2006
2001

1982
2007
2003
2010
1984
1995

1984
2009
2017
1998
2014
2007

2006
2017
2005
2011
2002
2010

Note: Check for James Brown at page 93.
The Chicago Big Four: “DREAMY EYES” TOP 20
The Chicago Big Four: "BIG FOOT" TOP 20

1951

1951

1951

1952

1953

1954

1955

1956

1957

1957

1958

1959

1960

1960

1961

1962

1963

1963

1964

1965
The R&B Pioneers Series

The Chicago Big Four: “NIGHT CAT” TOP 20

1947: ORA NELLE RECORD COMPANY
I JUST KEEP LOVING HER

1949: Tempo-Tone
BLUE BABY
SUNNY LAND SLIM

1950: Regal
MUSKRAT BLUES
LITTLE WALTER

1951: Chess
EVAN'S SHUFFLE
(Muddy Waters)

1952: Checker
NEON OLD WORLD

1952: Checker
SECOND STRING

1953: Checker
"OFF THE WALL"

1953: Checker
MOVIN' WITH A FEELIN'

1954: Checker
BLUE LIGHT
LITTLE WALTER

1954: Checker
LAST NIGHT
LITTLE WALTER

1955: Checker
"MY BABE"
LITTLE WALTER

1955: Checker
I HATE TO SEE YOU GO

1956: Checker
"JUST A FEELING"
LITTLE WALTER

1956: Checker
EVERYBODY NEEDS SOMEBODY
LITTLE WALTER

1957: Checker
"KEY TO THE HIGHWAY"
LITTLE WALTER

1958: Checker
I DON'T PLAY
LITTLE WALTER

1959: Checker
EVERYTHING GONNA BE ALL RIGHT
LITTLE WALTER

1960: Checker
BLUE HOUR
LITTLE WALTER

1961: Checker
I DON'T PLAY
LITTLE WALTER

1963: Checker
"SOUTHERN FEELING"
LITTLE WALTER

(plus "You're Sweet" from CD 9357)
The Chicago Big Four: “THE GOAT” TOP 20

1951: EYESIGHT TO THE BUND
1952: WEST MEMPHIS BLUES
1953: MIGHTY LONG TIME
1954: GETTIN’ OUT OF TOWN
1955: NO HURTS BY MYSELF
1955: DON’T START ME TALKIN’
1956: LET MEугол
1956: THE KEY
1957: WARTING FOOD FOR DINNER
1957: I’M GONNA BE ALEVIN’
1958: THE GOAT
1958: THE CLOSE BROTHERS
1959: ONE WAY OUT
1960: HELP ME
1960: I WANT YOU CLOSE TO ME
1961: BRING IT ON HOME
THE HARMONICA WIZARD (SBW II) and some of his fellow Mississippi Delta borns

“Birthplace of the Blues” – the Mississippi River Embayment in the State of Mississippi (the Clarksdale / Greenville area). Note: Only performers listed in “BLUES – A Regional Experience” by Eagle and LeBlanc at the “regional section” of the Mississippi Embayment, Mississippi are illustrated below (and there were more born there). Others like Gus Cannon, Charley Patton, Mississippi John Hurt, Tommy Johnson, Skip James, Tommy McClellan, Johnnie Temple, Walter Davis, Robert Johnson, Willie Dixon, Al Hibbler, Johnny Young, RuRus Thomas, Hound Dog Taylor, Eimore James, Willie Johnson, Little Johnny Jones, Dave Myers, Louis Myers, Bo Diddley, Mojo Buford, Magic Sam, and Magic Slim are all listed at the Mississippi Valley Loess Plains (“Hill County” – the Jackson area). Howlin’ Wolf, Big Joe Williams, Bukka White, Arthur “Big Boy” Crudup, J.T. Brown, Tony Hollins, Pope Staples, Lafayette Leake, Leroy “Baby Face” Foster, J.B.Lenior, Elvis Presley, Otis Rush, and Carey Bell are listed at the Eastern Piney Woods (Southeastern Plains) (“Black Belt” – Tupelo area, south-east of Memphis).


Try to identify the ones illustrated below! If you get ‘em all – you are a true blues fan!
SONNY BOY’s Trumpet Singles  (w. recording dates in Jackson, Ms)

1951: c/w Crazy About My Baby
March 12
1951: c/w Come on Back Home
August 5
1951: c/w Do It If You Wanna
August 5

1952: c/w I Cross My Heart
August 5
1952: c/w Pontiac Blues
August 5
1952: c/w Nine Below Zero
Dec 4, 1951

1953: c/w Stop Now Baby
Dec 4, 1951
1953: c/w Too Close Together
March 23, 1953 and Dec 4, 1951

1954: c/w Going In Your Direction
Oct 24, 1953
1954: c/w Empty Bedroom
Nov 12, 1954 and Nov 2, 1954
1955: c/w Boppin with Sonny
(aka Clowning With The World) Nov 2, 1954

Note: Sonny Boy also recorded several originally unissued songs for Trumpet - with debut on January 4, 1951, with re-recordings in March and August – and a whole session in Houston on April 14, 1953 (a total of ten sessions for Trumpet). One hour and a half of great SBW video!
THE WORLD’S GREATEST BLUES SINGER
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CD Artwork</th>
<th>CD Title and Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Sonny Boy Williamson" /></td>
<td>Sonny Boy Williamson II - The Complete Trumpet, Ace &amp; Checker Singles 1951-61 (2CD ADDCD3235 (51-62))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3" alt="The Coasters" /></td>
<td>The Coasters - The Complete Singles As &amp; Bs 1955-63 (2CD ADDCD3180 (54-62))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Little Walter" /></td>
<td>Little Walter - The Complete Checker Singles As &amp; Bs 1952-60 (2CD ADDCD3165 (52-60))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Muddy Waters" /></td>
<td>Muddy Waters - The Complete Aristocrat &amp; Chess Singles As &amp; Bs 1947-62 (4CD ACQCD7072 (47-62))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image6" alt="T-Bone Walker" /></td>
<td>T-Bone Walker - The Ultimate Collection 1929-57 (5CD ACFCD7503 (29-57))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image7" alt="B.B. King &amp; The Famous Flames" /></td>
<td>B.B. King &amp; The Famous Flames - The Complete Singles As &amp; Bs 1947-62 (5CD ACFCD7504 (49-62))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image8" alt="James Brown" /></td>
<td>James Brown - The Complete RPM &amp; Chess Singles As &amp; Bs 1951-62 (2CD ADDCD3242 (56-61))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image9" alt="Howlin' Wolf" /></td>
<td>Howlin' Wolf - The Complete RPM &amp; Chess Singles As &amp; Bs 1951-62 (3CD ACTRCD9039 (51-62))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image10" alt="Ray Charles" /></td>
<td>Ray Charles - Jukebox Hits '49 In The Beginning '52 (1CD ACMCD4326 (49-57))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image11" alt="Chuck Berry" /></td>
<td>Chuck Berry - The Complete Chess Singles As &amp; Bs 1955-61 (1CD FADCD2002 (49-52))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image12" alt="Jackie Wilson" /></td>
<td>Jackie Wilson - The Complete Singles As &amp; Bs 1952-62 (2CD ADDCD3122 (55-61))</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The R&B Pioneers Series
The R&B Pioneers Series

Acrobat Music Compiler: Paul Watts - http://acrobatmusic.net/

- no "5" Royales, Roy Brown, Midnighters, Temptations -

http://acrobatmusic.net/
Above: possibly Johnny Terry with the dog. Left: Bobby Byrd, Bobby Bennett, "Baby" Lloyd Stallworth.

THE COASTERS 1955 - 1997

Carl Gardner
lead 1955-2005; coach to 2011

Bobby Nunn
bass 1955-1957

Billy Guy
baritone 1955-1973

Leon Hughes
tenor 1955-1957

Will “Dub” Jones
bass 1958-1967

Cornell Gunter
tenor 1958-1961

Earl “Speedo” Carroll
tenor 1961-1979

Ronnie Bright
bass 1968-2009

Jimmy Norman
baritone (sub from 1969)

... and their guitarists:

Adolph “Al” Jacobs
1956-1959(1961)

Elibert “Sonny” Forrest
1959-1961

Thomas “Curley” Palmer
1962-2011
Top Rhythm and Blues Records
The Blues Giants
The Top Ten Vocal Groups
The Sepia Stars
Transitions from Rhythm to Soul
The True R&B Pioneers
The Soul Explosion
Clyde McPhatter
John Lee Hooker Session Discography
The Clownprinces of Rock and Roll
Those Hoodlum Friends – The Coasters

The R&B Pioneers Series: Top 30 Favorites
Compiled by Claus Röhnisch