

Johnnie Johnson - Blue Hand Johnnie (1987)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Johnnie's Boogie*
2. *See See Rider*
3. *O.J. Blues*
4. *Black Nights*
5. *Talkin' Woman*
6. *Honky Tonk, Pt. 1*
7. *Slow Train*
8. *Baby, What You Want Me to Do*
9. *Way South*
10. *Johnny B. Goode*
11. *Back in the U.S.A.*
12. *Son's Dream*

Johnnie Johnson (piano), Barbara Carr, Stacy Johnson (vocals), Steve Waldman, Herb Sadler, David Pruitt, Tom Maloney (guitars), Oliver Sain (saxophone), Dick Pruitt, Gus Thorton (bass), Keith Robertson, Kent Hinds, Pat O'Conner, Kenny Rice (drums).

Johnnie Johnson's rolling, barrelling licks are as enticing as ever on this reissued Evidence CD, but there are some other things that are not so grand. These include barely tolerable vocalists Barbara Carr and Stacy Johnson, whose enthusiasm is commendable, but whose vocals often get in the way. Johnson's covers of Fats Washington's "O.J. Blues" and "Black Nights" are great, as are his versions of "Honky Tonk" and "See See Rider." But he falters on "Baby, What You Want Me To," in part because he does not convey either the original's loping stride or laconic quality, and also because it is not the kind of peppy arrangement and backbeat suited to his style. A decent effort that might have been a superior one with a couple of added touches.

---Ron Wynn, allmusic.com

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