Lazy Lester – Rides Again (1987)



4 Blowin' a Rhumba 1 I Hear You Knockin' 2 Irene 3 St. Louis Blues 5 Nothin' But the Devil play 6 Hev Mattie 7 Sugar Coated Love 8 Travelling Days play 9 The Same Thing Could Happen to You 10 Can't Stand to See You Go 11 Out on the Road 12. Hey Mattie 13. Travelling Days - unreleased 14. Travelling Days 15. The Same Thing Could Happen To You 16. The Same Thing Could Happen To You - Remake 17. Lester's Shuffle 18. I Hear You Knockin' 19. Blowin' A Rhumba 20. Hey Mattie - unreleased 21. Hey Mattie unreleased 22. I Ain't Glad 23. Rockin' With Lester

Lazy Lester - Leslie Johnson - vocal, harmonica, guitar #5 Tim Elliott - harmonica Julian Piper/John Bruce/Telecaster Dave Neill - guitar Bob Hall - piano Steve Ewart/Alan Scott/Dave Bronze - bass Dave Eustace/Sean Scott/John "The Big Figure" Martin - drums Mike Vernon – percussion

The prime of Lazy Lester's recording career was his stint for Excello Records in the 1950s and '60s, and he hadn't recorded in the studio for quite some time when the Rides Again album was cut in England over the course of four days in late May 1987. You wouldn't say this is a peak of his work by any means, but if you accept that he couldn't be reasonably expected to replicate the magic of his vintage swamp blues with producer J.D. Miller, it's fairly decent. Lester himself is in good voice and blows the harmonica well on a set mixing remakes of Miller-era material with newer songs. While the backup band (including members of the Junkyard Angels and Blues 'N'Trouble) were journeymen without high name recognition, they play in a suitably loose and energetic style. Esteemed British producer Mike Vernon's liner notes for the expanded edition has the curious effect of lowering your hopes for the session in its studied detailing of various imperfections, but it's not an effort to be ashamed of. ---Richie Unterberger, allmusic.com

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