Masters of the Delta Blues - The Friends of Charlie Patton (1991)

1.Kid Bailey / Rowdy Blues 2.Tommy Johnson / Big Fat Mama Blues play 3.Bukka White / I Am In the Heavenly Way 4.Willie Brown / Future Blues 5.Ishmon Bracey / Brown Mama Blues 6.Louise Johnson / On the Wall 7.Son House / Walking Blues (unissued test) 8.Tommy Johnson / Canned Heat Blues 9.Bukka White / Promise True and Grand 10.Kid Bailey / Mississippi Bottom Blues
play
11.Tommy Johnson / Maggie Campbell Blues 12.Son House / My Black Mama (part 1) 13.Son House / My Black Mama (part 2) 14.Bertha Lee / Yellow Bee 15.Louise Johnson / Long Way From Home 16.Willie Brown / M and O Blues 17.Tommy Johnson / Button Up Shoes (take 1, unissued test) 18.Bertha Lee / Mind Reader Blues 19.Tommy Johnson / Lonesome Home Blues (take 1, unissued test) 20.Son House / Dry Spell Blues (part 1) 21.Son House / Dry Spell Blues (part 2) 22.Son House / Preachin' The Blues (part 1) 23.Son House / Preachin' The Blues (part 2)

As the most popular blues craftsman of the Mississippi Delta, Charley Patton had a resounding influence on many of the musicians that passed through the region during the '20s and '30s. Following his initial session for Paramount in 1929, he recommended both Son House and Willie Brown, as well as his mistress Louise Johnson and common-law wife Bertha Lee, to legendary talent scout H.C. Speir for recordings of their own. Furthermore, casual acquaintances like Tommy Johnson, Ishmon Bracey, and Kid Bailey acquired Patton themes, adopting them to suit their own style and playing ability, emerging with a handful of country blues classics in the process. Masters of the Delta Blues: The Friends of Charley Patton focuses on Patton's role as musical disseminator, gathering sides from all the above mentioned artists, along with a pair of recordings by admirer Bukka White. Patton's legacy is unquestionable, but the works of his contemporaries are hardly examples of second-rate imitation. Though Brown made recordings for the Library of Congress during the 1940s, his commercial output was extremely limited -- an unfortunate fact, given the quality of his "Future Blues." Joining Brown, Patton, and Louise Johnson for a session at Paramount in the '30s, Son House cut a handful of the finest sides of his career. Though his music would retain an

undeniable power into the 1960s, he arguably never topped the likes of "Walking Blues," "My Black Mama," "Dry Spell Blues," and "Preachin' the Blues," four explosions of raw Delta blues. Also exceptional are Kid Bailey's "Rowdy Blues," Tommy Johnson's "Button Up Shoes" and "Maggie Campbell Blues," and Bukka White's "I Am in the Heavenly Way." Possibly the finest topical country blues compilation in Yazoo's catalog, Masters of the Delta Blues is also essential listening for anyone with more than a casual interest in the genre. --- Nathan Bush, allmusic.com

The Yazoo label does it again!

This CD is essential for rare inclusion of all six demonic Son House performances originally cut on acetate in 1930. It was these recordings that inspired Alan Lomax to look up House in the early 40's for the Library of Congress Archives.

It is worth mentioning that do to Paramount's inferior treatment of the source material, there is considerable auxilliary noise on those six sides. But Son's guitar and voice still threaten to impale you like a hot skewer.

Son House would have been a preacher, but for the fact that he shot a man dead and was banished from Clarksdale for the rest of his life.

This was the belle epoque of Delta Blues, a time when the legendary rivalry between House and Charlie Patton was at a peak, and when another legend, Robert Johnson, would pick up a couple licks from Son House himself. The way of life that existed in the Delta back then is gone forever, and for all of that progress and new found civility, we shall never be fortunate enough to hear anything like this ever again.

For anyone hoping to hear a mellow country rover picking away on his front porch, Son House will send you to intensive care. This is truly "where the soul of man never dies." --- "thetaildragger", amazon.com

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