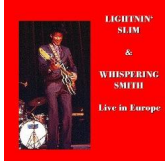


Lightnin' Slim & Whispering Smith – Live in Europe (1973)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 03 July 2013 15:08 - Last Updated Saturday, 03 April 2021 10:05

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01 Lonesome Cabin Blues 02 My Starter Won't Work 03 Just Imagination 04 Caress Me Baby 05 Baby What You Want Me To Do 06 I Want You To Love Me 07 You Got Me Dizzy 08 Nobody Loves Me But My Mother 09 Storm in Texas 10 Got My Mojo Working 11 Wintertime Blues 12 Take Me Back Baby 13 Texas Flood 14 Love Bug 15 Walking in The Park
Musicians: Lightnin' Slim – guitar, vocals Moses "Whispering" Smith – harmonica, vocals + Jimmy Dawkins – guitar W.D. Kent – bass Billy Davenport – drums Boogie Woogie Red – piano Roger Hill – bass Tom Farnell - drums

Lightnin' Slim was born Otis V. Hicks in St. Louis, Missouri. moving to Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the age of thirteen. Taught guitar by his older brother Layfield, Slim was playing in bars in Baton Rouge by the late 1940s.

He debuted on J. D. "Jay" Miller's Feature Records label in 1954 with "Bad Luck Blues" ("If it wasn't for bad luck, I wouldn't have no luck at all"). Slim then recorded for Excello Records for twelve years, starting in the mid 1950s, often collaborating with his brother-in-law, Slim Harpo and with harmonica player Lazy Lester. Slim took time off from the blues for a period of time and ended up working in a foundry in Pontiac, Michigan which resulted in him suffering from constantly having his hands exposed to high temperatures. He was re-discovered by Fred Reif in 1970, in Pontiac, where he was living in a rented room at Slim Harpo's sister's house. Reif soon got him back performing again and a new recording contract with Excello, this time through Bud Howell, the present President of the company. His first gig was a reunion concert at the 1971 University of Chicago Folk Festival with Lazy Lester, whom Reif had brought from Baton Rouge in January 1971.

In the 1970s, Slim performed on tours in Europe, both in the United Kingdom and at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland where he was often accompanied by Moses "Whispering"

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Smith on harmonica. He last toured the UK in 1973, with the American Blues Legends package.

In July 1974, Slim died of stomach cancer in Detroit, Michigan, aged 61. Slim has been cited as a major influence by several contemporary blues artists, including Captain Beefheart, who in a 1987 radio interview with Kristine McKenna, stated that Lightnin' Slim was the only artist he could recommend somebody listening to.

Moses "Whispering" Smith (January 25, 1932 – April 28, 1984) was an American blues harmonicist and singer. He recorded tracks including "A Thousand Miles from Nowhere" and "Texas Flood", and worked with both Lightnin' Slim and Silas Hogan. He was inducted into the Louisiana Blues Hall of Fame.

Smith was born in Union Church, Mississippi. In the 1960s, Smith's harmonica playing accompanied recordings by swamp blues notables Lightnin' Slim and Silas Hogan, before he was able to record some tracks of his own making. At this time he worked alongside the Crowley, Louisiana based record producer, J. D. "Jay" Miller, and his output was released by Excello Records. His singles included "Mean Woman Blues", "I Tried So Hard", and "Don't Leave Me", plus the instrumental tracks "Live Jive" and "Hound Dog Twist".

Although he was a powerful singer, and a straight but unsophisticated harmonica player, his potential was diminished by appearing at the back end of the swamp blues period. He recorded his final album for Excello in 1970. Whispering Smith died in April 1984 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the age of 52.

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