ABC Of The Blues CD 52 – Jimmy Yancey (2010)



CD 52 – Jimmy Yancey 52-01 Jimmy Yancey – Rolling the Stone 52-02 Jimmy Yancey – Steady Rock Blues 52-03 Jimmy Yancey – P.L.K. Special 52-04 Jimmy Yancey – South Side Stuff 52-05 Jimmy Yancey – Yancey's Getaway 52-06 Jimmy Yancey – How Long Blues play

52-07 Jimmy Yancey – Yancey Stomp 52-08 Jimmy Yancey – State Street Special 52-09 Jimmy Yancey – Five O'Clock Blues 52-10 Jimmy Yancey – La Salle Street Breakdown 52-11 Jimmy Yancey – Four O'Clock Blues 52-12 Jimmy Yancey – 35th and Dearborne 52-13 Jimmy Yancey – Monkey Woman Blues 52-14 Jimmy Yancey – Santa Fe Blues 52-15 Jimmy Yancey – Make Me a Pallet on the Floor 52-16 Jimmy Yancey – Lucille's Lament 52-17 Jimmy Yancey – Two O'Clock Blues 52-18 Jimmy Yancey – Yancey Special play

52-19 Jimmy Yancey - White Sox Stomp 52-20 Jimmy Yancey - Shave'em Dry

One of the seminal boogie-woogie pianists, **Jimmy Yancey** was active in and around Chicago playing house parties and clubs from 1915, yet he remained unrecorded until May 1939, when he recorded "The Fives" and "Jimmy's Stuff" for a small label. Soon after, he became the first boogie-woogie pianist to record an album of solos, for Victor. By then, Yancey's work around Chicago had already influenced such younger and better-known pianists as Meade "Lux" Lewis, Pinetop Smith, and Albert Ammons.

Yancey played vaudeville as a tap dancer and singer from the age of six. He settled in Chicago in 1915, where he began composing songs and playing music at informal gatherings. In 1925, he became groundskeeper at Comiskey Park, home of the Chicago White Sox baseball team. Yancey was a musician's musician, remaining mostly unknown and unheard outside of Chicago until 1936, when Lewis recorded one of his tunes, "Yancey Special." Three years later, producer Dan Qualey became the first to record Yancey for his new Solo Art label. After the Victor recordings, Yancey went on to record for OKeh and Bluebird. In later years, Yancey performed

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with his wife, blues singer Estelle "Mama" Yancey; they appeared together at Carnegie Hall in 1948.

Yancey was not as technically flashy as some of his disciples, but he was an expressive, earthy player with a flexible left hand that introduced an air of unpredictability into his bass lines. His playing had a notable peculiarity: Although he wrote and performed compositions in a variety of keys, he ended every tune in E flat. He was also an undistinguished blues singer, accompanying himself on piano. Although Yancey attained a measure of fame for his music late in life, he never quit his day job, remaining with the White Sox until just before his death. --- Chris Kelsey, AMG

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