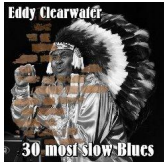


Eddy Clearwater - 30 Most Slow Blues (2017)

Written by bluesever
Friday, 18 May 2018 13:33 -

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01. *A Good Leavin' Alone* 02. *Reservation Blues* 03. *Hypnotized* 04. *Gotta Move On* 05. *Blue Over You* 06. *Trouble, Trouble* 07. *Came Up The Hard Way* 08. *They Call Me The Chief* 09. *Black Night* 10. *Hoochie Coochie Man* 11. *Every Day I Have the Blues* 12. *Poison Ivy* 13. *I'm Gonna Move* 14. *Last Night* 15. *One Day* 16. *Somebody Please Help Me* 17. *I Came Up The Hard Way* 18. *Stormy Monday Blues* 19. *Blues For Breakfast* 20. *Chicago Daily Blues* 21. *You Upset Me Baby* 22. *Mean Case Of The Blues* 23. *Send For Me* 24. *Love Being Loved By You* 25. *Don't Take My Blues* 26. *Winds Of Change* 27. *Blues Cruise* 28. *Susie-Q* 29. *Easy Is My Style* 30. *Everything To Gain*

Once dismissed by purists as a Chuck Berry imitator (and an accurate one at that), tall, lean, and lanky Chicago southpaw Eddy Clearwater is now recognized as a prime progenitor of West Side-style blues guitar. That's not to say he won't liven up a gig with a little duck-walking or a frat party rendition of "Shout"; after all, Clearwater brings a wide array of influences to the party. Gospel, country, '50s rock, and deep-down blues are all incorporated into his slashing guitar attack. But when he puts his mind to it, "The Chief" (a nickname accrued from his penchant for donning Native American headdresses on-stage) is one of the Windy City's finest bluesmen.

Eddy Harrington split Birmingham, AL, for Chicago in 1950, initially billing himself on the city's South and West sides as Guitar Eddy. His uncle, Rev. Houston H. Harrington, handed his nephew his initial recording opportunity; the good reverend operated a small label, Atomic-H. Eddy made the most of it, laying down a shimmering minor-key instrumental, "A-Minor Cha Cha," and the Berry-derived "Hillbilly Blues" (both on Delmark's Chicago Ain't Nothin' but a Blues Band anthology).

Drummer Jump Jackson invented Eddy's stage moniker as a takeoff on the name of Muddy Waters. As Clear Waters, he waxed another terrific Berry knock-off, "Cool Water," for Jackson's

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LaSalle logo. By the time he journeyed to Cincinnati in 1961 to cut the glorious auto rocker "I Was Gone," a joyous "A Real Good Time," and the timely "Twist Like This" for Federal Records producer Sonny Thompson, he was officially Eddy Clearwater. Things were sparse for quite a while after that; Clearwater occasionally secured a live gig dishing out rock and country ditties when blues jobs dried up.

But Rooster Blues' 1980 release of *The Chief*, an extraordinarily strong album by any standards, announced to the world that Eddy Clearwater's ascendancy to Chicago blues stardom was officially underway. The '90s found Clearwater waxing two encores for Rooster Blues, a set for Blind Pig (1992's *Help Yourself*), *Mean Case of the Blues*, in 1996 on his reactivated Cleartone Records, followed by *Cool Blues Walk* in 1998, *Chicago Daily Blues* in 1999, and *Reservation Blues* in mid-2000. With consistently exciting live performances, Clearwater cemented his reputation as a masterful showman whose principal goal is to provide his fans with a real good time. Keeping in that tradition, Clearwater teamed up with like minded showmen Los Straitjackets, releasing *Rock n Roll City* in 2003 on Rounder, followed five years later by his first session for the Alligator label, *West Side Strut*. ---Bill Dahl, allmusic.com

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