

Sam Collins - Complete Recorded Works 1927-1931 (1996)

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01. *The Jail House Blues* 02. *Devil In The Lion's Den* 03. *Yellow Dog Blues* 04. *Loving Lady Blues* 05. *Riverside Blues* 06. *Dark Cloudy Blues* 07. *Hesitation Blues* 08. *Pork Chop Blues* 09. *Midnight Special Blues* 10. *I Want To Be Like Jesus In My Heart* 11. *Lead Me All the Way* 12. *It Won't Be Long* 13. *Do That Thing* 14. *The Worried Man Blues* 15. *The Moanin' Blues* 16. *Lonesome Road Blues* 17. *New Salty Dog* 18. *Slow Mama Slow* 19. *Signifying Blues* 20. *I'm Still Sitting On Top Of The World* 21. *Graveyard Digger's Blues* 22. *My Road Is Rough And Rocky (How Long, How Long?)* Performer: Sam Collins – guitar, vocals John D. Fox - vocals

One of the earliest generation of blues performers, Collins developed his style in South Mississippi (as opposed to the Delta). His recording debut single ("The Jail House Blues," 1927) predated those of legendary Mississippians such as Charley Patton and Tommy Johnson and was advertised as "Crying Sam Collins and his Git-Fiddle." Collins did not become a major name in blues -- in fact his later records appeared under several different pseudonyms, most notably the name Jim Foster -- but his rural bottleneck guitar pieces were among the first to be compiled on LP when the country-blues reissue era was just beginning. Sam Charters wrote in *The Bluesmen*: "Although Collins was not one of the stylistic innovators within the Mississippi blues idiom, he was enough part of it that, in blues like 'Signifying Blues' and 'Slow Mama Slow,' he had some of the intensity of the Mississippi music at its most creative level."

Every track that Sam Collins recorded at the end of the '20s and early in the '30s is included on Document's Complete Recorded Works (1927-1931). Although the comprehensiveness of the set is a little intimidating for casual listeners -- they should stick with the better-sequenced Jailhouse Blues -- historians will find the collection invaluable. ---Thom Owens, Rovi

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