

Chicago - The Blues Yesterday Vol.7

Written by bluesever
Friday, 05 June 2015 15:50 -

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- 01. The buzzard* *02. The hawk* Freddie Robinson – guitar Paul Hankins – organ Wardell Reese – tenor saxophone Jerry Brown – bass Billy Davenport – drums Monk Higgins – percussion Chicago, 1961
- 03. Oh what a party* *04. Slow motion* *05. Many moons*
Freddie Robinson – guitar Monk Higgins – piano James Green – bass + band Chicago, July 1962
- 06. Go go girl*
Freddie Robinson – guitar, vocals Eddie Bradley – trumpet Jimmy Newman – alto saxophone Ralph Johnson – tenor saxophone Monk Higgins – piano Richard Lovelace – bass Hasson Miah – drums, vocals Chicago, May 1966
- 07. Somebody knockin'* *08. Standing on the corner* *09. Chi Four blues* *10. Knocking on the door*
Mojo Buford – vocals, harmonica Dave Copperstrand – guitar JoJo Williams – guitar Marcus Wilson – tenor saxophone Jerry DeOtis – bass S.P. Leary – drums Minneapolis, April 1963
- 11. The morning before day* *12. Mo Jo woman* *13. My mojo's working* *14. She's a whole lots a woman*
Mojo Buford – vocals, harmonica Sonny Boy Rodgers – guitar JoJo Williams – bass Francis Clay – drums Artis Hopkins – vocals Minneapolis, 1964
- 15. Cheapskate* *16. So nice to be loved* *17. Thanks Mr Postman* *18. I want you to rock me*
Bobby King – vocals, guitar Rosemary King – vocals (15, 16) Sonny Thompson – piano + band Cincinnati, 21 November 1961
- 19. Two telephones*
Bobby King – vocals, guitar + band Cincinnati, 16 August 1962
- 20. What a day what a night* *21. Wasted*
Bobby King – vocals, guitar Sonny Thompson – piano + band Cincinnati, 12 June 1964
- 22. Froggy Bottom I*
Bobby King – vocals, guitar + band Chicago, 1966

Here is the 7th opus of this popular "Chicago/The Blues Yesterday" series.

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Guitarist and singer Freddie (or Freddy) Robinson (1939-2009) is well known among blues fans for his tasty and jazzy solos behind Howlin' Wolf, Little Walter, Shakey Jake, Louis Myers or John Mayall. But, particularly after he left Chicago to the West Coast, Freddie has recorded as a leader several albums in a Soul Jazz genre a la George Benson. Each one features anyway a couple of excellent blues tunes, particularly those Freddie made for the Enterprise label. Here are gathered the handful of singles he made in Chicago under his name in which we can appreciate his already touchy style of guitar playing.

Singer and harp player George "Mojo" Buford (1929-2011) is mostly known for having been one of the main stalwart of the Twin City blues scene. But he has been tied up with Muddy Waters for years (as the leader of the Muddy Waters Junior Blues Band and as the harmonica player of the Muddy Blues Band) so his music can surely be qualified as "Chicago blues". The eight tracks we have gathered here have been recorded for tiny local labels (Vernon, Adell) and are much sought-after numbers by many blues buffs. Mojo has also recorded several excellent albums in Minneapolis, Memphis and the United Kingdom.

At last - but not the least - Bobby King would deserve better fame. Born in Little Rock on January, 29th 1941, Bobby has learned the blues under the influence of Fenton Robinson and Larry Davis before moving to Chicago via a stopover in Saint Louis in 1959. Bobby became very quickly a favorite of the Chicago clubs and his adventurous and jazzy guitar style brought him very often in the studios, recording behind a vast array of blues stars (Lee Shot Williams, Jesse Anderson, Eddy Clearwater, Freddy King and many more) and also touring with Bobby Bland and Hank Ballard. He also waxed some 45s that we have gathered here for the first time (one track is still missing... help, anyone?). After an excellent "live" album for Marcelle Morgantini in 1975 and another session with Jimmy Tillman in 1977 (only issued as a cassette and sold briefly during Tillman's gigs), Bobby King ought to make tour of Europe and Japan. But a violent quarrel at Louise's, a Chicago club, left him severely wounded, unable to play the guitar anymore. He subsequently died from those wounds on July, 22nd 1983, at only 42! ---Gérard Herzhaft, jukegh.blogspot.com

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