

Chicago - The Blues Yesterday Volume 11

Written by bluesever

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01. *Someday* Bobby Rush (Emmett Ellis Jr) – vocals, guitar + band Chicago, 1964 02. *Much too much* 03. *Sock boogaloo*
Bobby Rush – vocals, guitar Monk Higgins – piano Wayne Bennett – guitar Luther Johnson – guitar, horns Cornelius Boyson – bass, drums Chicago, 1967
04. *Gotta have money* 05. *Camel walk*
Bobby Rush – vocals, guitar + band Chicago, 1968
06. *Wake up* 07. *Just be yourself* 08. *Let it all hang out*
Bobby Rush – vocals, guitar Sonny Thompson – piano + band Chicago, 1969
09. *Chicken heads* 10. *Mary Jane*
Bobby Rush – vocals, guitar + band Chicago, 1971
11. *Bowlegged woman knock kneed man I & II*
Bobby Rush – vocals, guitar + band Chicago, 1972
12. *Get out of here*
Bobby Rush – vocals, guitar + band Chicago, 1974
13. *Cryin' for my baby* 14. *Shake it baby* 15. *I ain't doing too bad* 16. *Ain't no time for fussing*
17. *Somebody walking in my home* 18. *Highway 49* 19. *Out in Virginia* 20. *Smokestack lightnin'* 21. *Help me baby* 22. *New Orleans blues*
Little Wolf (Jessie Sanders) – vocals, guitar Bobby Rush – harmonica, guitar, bass Micky Rogers – guitar Mike Rushell – guitar Dell Marris – organ John Alford – keyboards Jackson State Horn Section – horns Willie James Hatten – bass Forest Gordon – drums Jackson, Ms. prob. 1992
23. *Ain't gonna tell nobody* 24. *Feel like a King*
L.C. Roby (Lee Charles Holland) – vocals, guitar Eddie Shaw – tenor saxophone Detroit Jr – organ Marilyn Love - bass Ben Sanders – drums Chicago, September 1979

Bobby Rush (born Emmett Ellis Jr on November, 10th 1940 at Homer, La) is a major name of the Soul blues and one of the true master of the so-called chitlin' circuit (cf his breathtaking performances behind his audience in the Richard Pearce's film *The Road to Memphis*). He has a large discography of very often excellent albums with many Hits, mainly in the Southern States. He knows better than anyone how to mix a gritty down home Funk with strong blues overtones

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(he learned the blues with people like Elmore James and Boyd Gilmore!) and Soul elements and his music is highly personal and very exciting. But his first 45s recorded in Chicago (where his family settled in 1953) are not well known outside his major Hit Chicken heads. We have tried to gather them but five titles are still missing (any .mp3 copy through my mail would be welcome!). Becoming a big name, mainly in the South, Bobby went to live to Jackson, Ms in 1980, near his favourite audience.

We have already featured Little Wolf and the records he made for Willie Dixon (see Chicago/ The Blues Yesterday Vol. 2). Born Jesse Sanders on June, 26th 1930 in Florence, Ms, our man has made a career as a Chicago police officer for 47 years while singing the blues in the Windy City clubs. Married to Howlin' Wolf's niece Diane, Jesse brought the attention of Willie Dixon who recorded him on an excellent aforementioned album. After his retirement from the Chicago Police Department, Jesse Sanders relocated in Memphis where he made some public appearances. He met again his old friend Bobby Rush and while Bobby bought to him a Greyhound bus Jesse had reshaped himself, he decided to record Sanders (this time as Little Howlin' Wolf) for his short lived JayLo label. The album is so rare that it was long thought it was never issued. Thanks to the detective talents of our friend Pierre Monnery, we have been able to get a copy of it and the entire session is on this post. But mind you: extremely rare doesn't mean extremely successful! Although there are good moments, we are here quite far from the sessions Little Wolf made for Dixon in Chicago!

To round off this new volume, we have included the only but excellent 45 made by L.C. Roby (Lee Charles Holland, son of William Holland, himself a Howlin' Wolf impersonator!) in 1979. Roby was, at that time, leading a very good Chicago outfit that backed many bluesmen in the clubs and the studios. On his own record, L.C. demonstrates his skills as a singer and as a guitarist, strongly influenced by Albert King. --- Gérard Herzhaft, jukegh.blogspot.com

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