

American Folk Blues Festival '63 Part 2 (1981)

Written by bluesever

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01. Otis Spann - Goin' Down Slow [Alternate Take] 02. Willie Dixon - Sittin' and Cryin' the Blues 03. Willie Dixon - Crazy for My Baby 04. Victoria Spivey - Grant Spivey 05. Victoria Spivey - T.B. Blues 06. Big Joe Williams - Big Roll Blues 07. Big Joe Williams - Back in the Bottom Blues 08. Big Joe Williams - I Have No Friends 09. Big Joe Williams - Baby Please Don't Cry 10. Lonnie Johnson - Careless Love 11. Lonnie Johnson - C.C. Rider 12. Lonnie Johnson - It's Too Late to Cry 13. Matt "Guitar" Murphy - Matt's Guitar Boogie 14. Memphis Slim - Bye Bye Blues Bass – Willie Dixon Drums – Bill Stepney Guitar – Big Joe Williams, Lonnie Johnson, Matt "Guitar" Murphy, Muddy Waters Harmonica – Sonny Boy Williamson Piano – Memphis Slim, Otis Spann Ukulele – Victoria Spivey Vocals – Big Joe Williams, Lonnie Johnson, Muddy Waters, Victoria Spivey

From jazz-auction.com:

The tour was repeated in 1963, because the whole “AFBF thing” proved to be lucrative for Lippmann & Rau. They had successfully realized an innovative idea, and so they kept on presenting the “American Folk Blues Festival”. But along with the success also came difficulties. It was no longer possible to simply walk backstage and book the musicians. You had to go through the management. And the promoters were prepared for demand from smaller venues and organized a so-called “small tour” in 1963 that also had its own slimmer tour program booklet, with the title “Folk Blues USA”.

The smaller line-up of this tour segment included Memphis Slim (again), Sonny Boy Williamson, Matt “Guitar” Murphy, and Bill Stepney on drums. This well-chosen combination featuring musicians that were quite well acquainted with each others was sent across the country. And bigger stars such as Muddy Waters and Otis Spann, who were part of the concert version of the 1963 AFBF, probably wouldn't have agreed to do additional club dates. This quartet probably

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stayed on after the regular tour had been completed, which would have been the second half of November. The precise date for the appearance at the Jazz House in Wiesbaden can unfortunately not be pinpointed.

The 1963 Jazz House gig was also a very delightful evening. Witnesses report that Sonny Boy Williamson could only be lured off stage with a bottle of whiskey held out to him by the hostess. And this time, sound recordings from the evening have also survived, albeit in bad quality, but with lots of atmosphere. Albert Butz remembers with a smile: "A friend of mine sat in the kitchen in front of the reel-to-reel tape recorder and desperately tried to adjust the recording levels." Incidentally, the titles performed that evening have nothing in common with the song titles printed in the official program booklet – maybe somebody should have shown it to the musicians... It all goes to prove that this was quite an easy-going affair, almost like in a corner bar in Chicago. Sonny Boy Williamson, who contributed immensely to the success of the whole tour, was in high spirits and had the audience in the palm of his hands. --- bigozine2.com

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