

Bobby 'Blue' Bland - The Anthology (2001)

Written by bluesever

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CD 1 1. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Stormy Monday Blues (4:10) 2. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Lovin' Blues (3:18) 3. Bobby "Blue" Bland - It's My Life Baby (2:45) 4. Bobby "Blue" Bland - I Woke Up Screaming (2:48) 5. Bobby "Blue" Bland - You've Got Bad Intentions (2:34) 6. Bobby "Blue" Bland - I Smell Trouble (2:38) 7. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Farther Up The Road (2:59) 8. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Little Boy Blue (2:39) 9. Bobby "Blue" Bland - I'm Not Ashamed (2:37) 10. Bobby "Blue" Bland - I'll Take Care Of You (2:26) 11. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Lead Me On (2:06) 12. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Cry, Cry, Cry (2:45) [play](#) 13. Bobby "Blue" Bland - I've Been Wrong So Long (2:21) 14. Bobby "Blue" Bland - I Pity The Fool (2:43) 15. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Don't Cry No More (2:29) 16. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Ain't That Lovin' You (2:34) 17. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Who Will The Next Fool Be? (2:29) 18. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Stormy Monday Blues (4:10) 19. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Turn On Your Love Light (2:35) 20. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Yield Not To Temptation (2:32) 21. Bobby "Blue" Bland - 36-22-36 (2:49) 22. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Call On Me (2:27) 23. Bobby "Blue" Bland - That's The Way Love Is (2:34) 24. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Ain't Nothing You Can Do (2:25) 25. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Share Your Love With Me (2:40) 26. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Blind Man (3:20) 27. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Ain't Doin' Too Bad, Pt. 1 (2:38) 28. Bobby "Blue" Bland - These Hands (Small But Mighty) (2:18) 29. Bobby "Blue" Bland - I'm Too Far Gone (To Turn Around) (2:33) 30. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Good Time Charlie, Pt. 1 (2:31)

CD 2

1. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Poverty (Single Version (Stereo)) (2:09) 2. Bobby "Blue" Bland - You're All I Need (Single Version) (2:54) 3. Bobby "Blue" Bland - That Did It (Single Version) (3:30) 4. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Driftin' Blues (Single Version (Stereo)) (3:28) 5. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Save Your Love For Me (Single Version) (3:33) 6. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Rockin' In The Same Old Boat (Single Version) (3:35) 7. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Ask Me 'Bout Nothing (But The Blues) (Single Version) (3:41) 8. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Chains Of Love (Single Version) (3:17) 9. Bobby "Blue" Bland - If You Got A Heart (Single Version) (2:42) 10. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Do What You Set Out To Do (Single Version) (3:31) 11. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Goin' Down Slow (Single Edit) (3:45) 12. Bobby "Blue" Bland - This Time I'm Gone For Good (8:55) 13. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Ain't No Love In The Heart Of The City (Single Version) (3:53) 14. Bobby "Blue" Bland - I Wouldn't Treat A Dog (The Way You Treated Me) (Single Version (Stereo)) (3:19) 15. Bobby "Blue" Bland - Yolanda (Single Edit) (3:10)

[play](#)

16. Bobby "Blue" Bland - I Take It On Home (3:34) 17. Bobby "Blue" Bland - It Ain't The Real Thing (Single Version) (3:21) 18. B.B. King - Let The Good Times Roll (Live (Coconut Grove))

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Single Version) (5:29) 19. Bobby "Blue" Bland - *The Soul Of A Man (Single Edit)* (3:05) 20. Bobby "Blue" Bland - *Soon As The Weather Breaks (Single Edit)* (3:27) 21. Bobby "Blue" Bland - *Recess In Heaven (Single Version)* (4:37)

Personnel includes: Bobby "Blue" Bland (vocals); B.B. King (vocals, guitar); Roy Gaines, Clarence Holliman, Auburn "Pat" Hare, Wayne Bennett, Gerald Sims, Freddy Robinson, Spence Bean, Ray Parker, Jr. (guitar); Johnny Board, Bobby Forte, Jimmy Beck, Bill Harvey, Rayfield Davers, Melvin Jackson, Theodore Arthur, Jerome Richardson, Red Holloway (saxophone); Joe Scott, Melvin Jackson, Henry Boozier, Joseph Harden, Tommy Ferguson, Snooky Young (trumpet); Pluma Davis, Al Thomas (trombone); Connie Mack Booker, Skippy Brooks, Teddy Reynolds (piano); Hamp Simmons, Phil Upchurch, Charles Green (bass); Sonny Freeman, John "Jabo" Starks, Harrell Porter, Charles Polk (drums); Anita Kerr Singers (background vocals).

Over the 1952-82 time-span covered here, Bobby "Blue" Bland united tough-as-pavement blues singing with heartbroken Southern R&B, and helped to create chitlin-circuit soul as we know it now. Too raw for most oldies radio, Bland was a major presence in his time: 30 of these 50 songs hit the pop charts, and almost all of them were significant R&B hits. The first disc-and-a-half documents his long-running Duke Records collaboration (in Chicago, Texas, and Nashville) with trumpeter Joe Scott, who wrote ambitious arrangements that ran from tender love-man pop to howling, honking blues terrorism, but usually gave Bland a chance to emote harder than his microphone could handle. The remainder finds Little Boy Blue on his own in L.A. in the '70s, spicing up smoother blues-inflected soul (and even a stab at light disco, "It Ain't the Real Thing") with the famous squall in his voice. --Douglas Wolk, Editorial Reviews

As the quintessential chitlin' circuit R&B/blues star, Memphis-based singer Bobby "Blue" Bland's career has been relatively well-documented on CD. Still, until this 2001 double set, all 25 of his Top Ten R&B hits have not been available in one package. The Anthology is still not a complete career overview though, as it ends in 1982 before his prolific years at Malaco. It does, however, cover a remarkably prolific 30-year period, starting with his first recordings for Duke in 1952 and touching base at Dunhill and MCA, all conveniently located under the current Universal Music label umbrella. Die-hard fans of Bland during this period likely own the three double-disc sets MCA released in the mid-'90s but, for those who don't need the warts-and-all treatment yet want something more in depth than skimpy single-disc collections, this is certainly the way to go. Soul expert Bill Dahl's excellent liner notes provide anecdotes along with the major events that shaped Bland's life and ultimately these recordings. The 16-page book lists detailed and comprehensive individual track information, noting specific musicians on each of the 50 cuts.

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The overall effect is startling in its consistency. Bland's style and voice are immediately identifiable throughout, and the songwriting -- even on the later tracks -- typically suits his grits-and-honey approach. A previously unreleased live eight-minute 1973 version of "This Time I'm Gone for Good," which demonstrates how effectively Bland extended his songs in concert, is the only collectable track here, but this chronologically arranged set is not geared toward that segment of the audience. Sonically, The Anthology is the best this material has ever sounded, with the '60s songs absolutely stunning in their remastered definition. While he experienced a significant career resurgence in the '80s, which is where this sets stops, these are the classic songs that form the basis of any serious blues collection. As such, it's an essential document of one of America's most talented, and creative, blues singers. ---Hal Horowitz, allmusic.com

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