Creedence Clearwater Revival – Jam Session with Booker T Jones At Fantasy Studio (1970)



01. Jam Warm Up 02. 99 1/2 03. Proud Mary 04. Travelin' Band <u>play</u> 05. Born On The Bayou 06. Down On The Corner 07. 99 1/2 Reprise <u>play</u>

08. I Put A Spell On You 09. Final Jam

It didn't get a lot of fanfare, and maybe it wasn't intended to produce any music for release. But Booker T. Jones of Booker T. & the MG's did record a jam session with Creedence Clearwater Revival in 1970 at Fantasy Studio. This bootleg documents it, with 67 minutes of music, in good though not great studio quality. Like many jams between superstars, of course, it doesn't sound as wonderful on disc as it might in your head. It just sounds like Creedence with a good organ player, running through some of their most popular songs rather informally. Apparently it wasn't seen as an opportunity to work up new material or take on cover tunes that CCR hadn't done on their records. In fact, six of the nine tracks were versions of songs that Creedence put on their early releases, including the hits "Proud Mary," "Down on the Corner," "Born on the Bayou," and "Travelin' Band," as well as and two versions of "Ninety-nine and a Half (Won't Do)." The other tracks are basic bluesy instrumental groove jams -- nice enough, but not any with riffs that sound like they could have been developed into distinctive songs. (Note that the track identified as "I Put a Spell on You" is an instrumental that doesn't seem to have more than a casual resemblance to the Screamin' Jay Hawkins classic that Creedence covered on their first album.)

Part of the reason the CD's so long is that there's a fair amount of bumbling around between songs, and while John Fogerty does sing (and with passion), the instrumental balance and presence of the vocals in the mix aren't ideal (not to mention the presence of occasional loud electronic beeps). There aren't many Creedence bootlegs around, though, and this is a neat if not earthshaking chance to hear them playing live and playing fairly well, with a celebrity guest helping them out. ---Richie Unterberger, Rovi

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