

Keb Mo – Philadelphia Folk Fest (1997)

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*01. Victim Of Comfort 02. Perpetual Blues Machine 03. That's Not Love 04. Am I Wrong
05. City Boy 06. Angelina 07. Every Morning 08. You Can Love Yourself 09. Hand It Over*
1997-08-22 Philadelphia Folk Fest Old Poole Farm, Schwenksville PA

Guitarist/vocalist Keb' Mo' draws heavily on the old-fashioned country blues style of Robert Johnson while keeping his sound contemporary with touches of soul and folksy storytelling. A skilled frontman as well as an accomplished sideman, he writes much of his own material and has applied his acoustic, electric, and slide guitar skills to jazz- and rock-oriented bands. Born Kevin Moore in Los Angeles to parents of Southern descent, he was exposed to gospel music at a young age. At 21, Moore joined an R&B band that was later hired for a tour by Papa John Creach; as a result, Moore played on three of Creach's albums. Opening for jazz and rock artists such as the Mahavishnu Orchestra, Jefferson Starship, and Loggins & Messina helped further broaden Moore's horizons and musical abilities.

Moore cut an R&B-based solo album, *Rainmaker*, in 1980 for Casablanca, which promptly folded. In 1983, he joined Monk Higgins' band as a guitarist and met a number of blues musicians who collectively increased his understanding of the genre. He subsequently joined a vocal group called the Rose Brothers and gigged around Los Angeles. In 1990 Moore portrayed a Delta bluesman in a local play, *Rabbit Foot*, and then played Robert Johnson in a docudrama entitled *Can't You Hear the Wind Howl?* He released his self-titled debut album as Keb' Mo' in 1994, featuring two Robert Johnson covers, 11 songs written or co-written by Moore, and his guitar and banjo work.

His second album, *Just Like You*, saw Keb' Mo' stretching his legs by working with a full band and tackling several rock-based songs. The gamble paid off, as *Just Like You* won the artist his first Grammy Award. *Slow Down* followed in 1998 and netted Mo' another Grammy, and *Door*

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was issued two years later. Big Wide Grin followed in 2001, while 2004 saw the release of two albums, Keep It Simple and Peace...Back by Popular Demand. Suitcase was issued in 2006 on Red Ink Records. The self-produced The Reflection appeared five years later in 2011; the first release on his own label, Yolabelle International, the album featured guest spots from India.Arie, Vince Gill, Dave Koz, Marcus Miller, Mindi Abair, and David T. Walker. ---Steve Huey, All Music Guide

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