Ma Rainey - Blame It on the Blues (2019)

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01. Blame It on the Blues 02. Prove It on Me Blues 03. Black Bottom 04. Leaving This Morning 05. Black Eye Blues 06. See See Rider Blues 07. Hustlin' Blues 08. So Soon This Morning 09. Moonshine Blues 10. Bo Weavil Blues 11. No Easy Rider Blues 12. Big Boy Blues 13. Misery Blues 14. Travelling Blues 15. Blues Oh Blues 16. Down in the Basement 17. Toad Frog Blues 18. Stack O'lee Blues 19. Wringing and Twisting Blues 20. Yonder Comes the Blues 21. Shave 'Em Dry 22. Jealousy Blues 23. Black Cat Hoot Owl Blues 24. Ma Rainey's Mystery Blues 25. Barrel House Blues 26. Hellish Rag 27. Georgia Cake Walk Buster Bailey Clarinet Shirley Clay Cornet Charlie Dixon Banjo Charlie Green Trombone Coleman Hawkins Sax (Bass) Fletcher Henderson Piano Ma Rainey Primary Artist, Vocals Ike Rodgers Trombone Joe "Fox" Smith Cornet Tampa Red Kazoo, Piano Recorded in New York 1926 and Chicago 1927 & 1928.

Gertrude Pridgett was born into a showbiz family that performed in minstrel shows. She first appeared onstage in 1900, singing and dancing in minstrel and vaudeville stage revues. In 1902 she married the song and dance man William "Pa" Rainey and from then on became known as Ma Rainey. The couple formed a song and dance act that included Blues and popular songs. They toured the country, but primarily the South and became a popular attraction as part of Tolliver's Circus, The Musical Extravaganza and The Rabbit Foot Minstrels, where Rainey befriended a young Bessie Smith. In the 1920s Rainey was a solo star of the T.O.B.A. vaudeville circuit. It was not until 1923 that Ma Rainey signed a recording contract with Paramount. She was billed as the "Mother of the Blues", which wasn't far off the mark. Few historians can point to any real Blues singers before Ma Rainey. She ended up recording 100 songs between 1923 and 1928 on Paramount Records. During that time she was accompanied by many noted jazz musicians such as, Louis Armstrong, Tommy Ladnier, Fletcher Henderson and Coleman Hawkins. She continued working until 1935 and retired to Columbus, Georgia. Ma had been smart with her money and managed to build and operate two theaters; she also owned her own home in Columbus. Ma Rainey died in 1939, of a heart attack. ---redhotiazz.com

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