

George 'Harmonica' Smith - Blowing the Blues (1960)

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01. *Blowing The Blues* 2:17 02. *West Helena Blues* 3:11 03. *I Don't Know* 2:59 04. *Miss O'Malley's Rally* 2:14 05. *All Last Night* 2:29 06. *I Want A Woman* 2:35 07. *Until You Come Home* 2:48 08. *Hot Rolls* 2:12 09. *I Must Be Crazy* 2:03 [play](#) 10. *Yes Baby* 2:16 11. *Loose Skrews* 2:31 12. *Rope That Twist* 1:56 13. *Sometimes You Win, Sometimes You Lose* 3:03 14. *Good Things* 2:52 15. *You Can't Undo What's Been Done* 2:24 16. *Nobody Knows* 2:49 17. *Trap Meat* 2:07 18. *Tight Dress* 2:37 19. *Times Won't Be Hard Always* 2:34 20. *Come On Home* 2:23 [p/](#)

[ay](#)

21. *The Avalon Boogaloo* 2:45 22. *As Long As I Live* 2:49 23. *Brown Mule* 2:41 24. *Summertime* 3:30 25. *Teenage Girl* 4:45 26. *Teardrops Falling* 5:01

George "Harmonica" Smith (vocals, harmonica); Jr. Watson, Doug MacLeod, Pete Lewis, Marshall Hooks (guitar); Rod Piazza (harmonica); Honey Piazza, J.D. Nicholson (piano); Bill Stuve (acoustic bass); Curtis Tilman (bass); Chuck Thomas, Bill Swartz (drums).

These were culled from sessions from 1956 to 1966 and 1978, and originally recorded for local labels JM, Sotoplay, Carolyn and Hittin' Heavy. Although this material taps the depths of Smith's mastery, little care was done to digitally clean up these cuts. Just as shameful are that some of the personnel is unknown, as they serve up some tasty morsels. Al Bedorsian (later associated with Robert Lucas' Luke and the Locomotives) and William Clarke join on the 1978 session. Smith's gab for songwriting needs more notice, as "Rope This Twist," influenced by Chubby Checker's "Do the Twist," is more like a one-up on that popular favorite, going with complex instrumental layering, yet keeping a danceable feel. ---Editorial Reviews

Now You Can Talk About Me collects mid- and late-period Smith, with the harmonica genius'

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'60s sides for the microscopic imprint Sotoplay sampled on the first five cuts. The remainder of the album is from a 1982 session for the Murray Brothers label with Rod Piazza behind the board, which produced the Boogie'n with George album. Also included are the previously unreleased "Last Chance" and a powerful instrumental slow-burner. Junior Watson shines on guitar on these tracks and Smith's tone is big, fat, rich, and full of ideas galore on tunes like "Bad Start," "Astatic Stomp," "Sunbird," and the title track. But Smith's use of a chromatic harp will strike most blues mavens as something unique and out of the ordinary, as he tackles such standards as "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" and "Peg o' My Heart" with considerable élan, imparting both with a bluesy feel that Jerry Murad & the Harmonicats could only envision. If you like great blues harmonica playing, you're going to love Now You Can Talk About Me. Add Smith's name to the list of all-time greats near the top with this one. ---Cub Koda, All Music Guide

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