Chicago - The Blues Yesterday Volume 14

01. I hate to see you go 02. Do the mosquito 03. Can't stand your evil ways 04. My spirit will be with you 05. Bleeding heart 06. Did you do the mosquito? J.L. Smith – vocals James Scott Jr – guitar Little Mack Simmons – harmonica Lafayette Leake – organ Jerome Arnold – bass Earl Phillips – drums Chicago, 1968
07. Got my top let down 08. If it's too late
J.L. Smith – vocals Freddie Roulette – steel guitar Johnny "Big Moose" Walker – piano Mack Thompson – bass, drums Chicago, January 1969
09. Come dance with me 10. Tears won't help you baby
J.L. Smith – vocals Abb Locke – tenor saxophone Big Walter Horton – harmonica Johnny Twist Williams – guitar Johnny Littlejohn – guitar Calvin Jones – bass Bill Warren – drums Chicago, November 1969
11. Earth worm I & II
Cash Mc Call (Maurice Dollison) – vocals, guitar + band Chicago, 1963
12. You ain't too cool 13. Let's get a thing going on 14. You mean everything to me
Cash Mc Call – vocals, guitar John Avant – tuba Willie Henderson – baritone saxophone Monk Higgins – piano Sidney Lennear – guitar David Henderson – bass Ham Hamilton – drums Chicago, 1966
15. I'm in danger 16. S.O.S. 17. Don't change on me
Cash Mc Call – vocals, guitar Monk Higgins – piano, horns Phil Upchurch – bass Morris Jennings – drums Chicago, 1967-68
18. More power to you
Cash Mc Call – vocals, guitar + band Chicago, 1971
19. I'm wading in deep water 20. It's been so long baby 21. Whiskey ol' whiskey 22. I gotta find my baby
Tommy Malone – vocals Bill Reese – guitar + band Birmingham, Al. 10 January 1955
23. Cow cow shake 24. Worried life
Tommy Malone – vocals Bill Reese – guitar + band Birmingham, Al. 1960

Let's start the 14th (!) volume of our Chicago/ The Blues Yesterday series with singer J.L. Smith (James L. Smith) who, despite the ten very good or even excellent tracks he has recorded in the

late 1960's is still largely only a name. He was for sure sporadically singing his blues in the Chicago clubs, certainly until the early 1980's and was probably from Mississippi. He has in particular recorded for the tiny Friendly Five label, owned by Chicago guitarist and cab driver Freddy Young with whom some say he was also a colleague. Whatever! His complete recorded output that we can now feature is first rate and feature some of the top notch Chicago blues musicians of the era.

Cash McCall (born Maurice Dollison in New Madrid, Missouri on January, 21st 1941) is a well known and greatly appreciated blues, Funk, Soul, Jazz guitarist. He has graced numerous sessions (Chess notably) with his precise, fluid, expressive and very bluesy guitar playing. He has also recorded several albums under his name which can be still easily found. This is not the case of his early 45s. Thus this selection of his most bluesy early recordings.

At last, the blind singer Tommy Malone (sometimes billed as Blind Tom Malone) is mostly an unknown. He hailed from Birmingham, Alabama, where he was the featured singer of guitarist's Bill Reese band with whom he recorded four excellent tracks in 1955. We find our man again this time in Chicago in 1960 with once again Reese, recording two titles for Mayo Wiliams' Ebony label. He has disappeared after that.

This anthology wouldn't have been possible without the strong help and generosity of Steve Wisner. Steve, when during the 1970s very few blues records were still done in Chicago, produced some of the very best Chicago blues albums by Eddie C. Campbell (his first and still his greatest to my ears, King of the Jungle), Good Rockin' Charles, Mojo Buford and many more. ---Gérard Herzhaft, jukegh.blogspot.com

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