

Chicago - The Blues Yesterday Volume 19

Wpisany przez bluesever
Wtorek, 04 Lipiec 2017 15:06 -

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01. *No haps* 02. *I've got it* 03. *You promised* 04. *I'm lonely* Roy Wright – vocals Denni Tillman – piano John Avant – trombone Red Holloway – tenor saxophone + band. Chicago, Ill. march 1957 05. *True love*
06. *I hope it lasts forever* 07. *I tried*
Roy Wright – vocals Denni Tillman – piano + band Chicago, Ill. 1958
08. *I'm going crazy* 09. *Once in awhile*
Roy Wright – vocals + band Chicago, Ill. 1962
10. *Heartbreak* 11. *Something wrong*
Roy Wright – vocals + band Chicago, Ill. 1965
12. *Hook line and sinker* 13. *Alone* 14. *You changed my life around*
Roy Wright – vocals + band Chicago, Ill. 1966-67
15. *That's my gal* 16. *Come for a ride*
Bill Crosby - vocals Bill Owens – piano, drums Chicago, Ill. 28 october 1945
17. *Those doggone blues (vcl: Sugarman Pennigar)* 18. *Eat, drink and be merry* 19. *Hip Chick blues* 20. *Sneaking woman blues*
Bill Crosby - vocals Bill Owens – piano Johnny Morton – trumpet Oett "Sax" Mallard – alto saxophone, clarinet Sugarman Penigar – tenor saxophone Bali Beach – bass Jump Jackson – drums Chicago, Ill. 29 july 1946
21. *The eleven o'nine* 22. *Better be with me*
Lucky Carmichael – vocals + band Chicago, Ill. 1960
23. *I'm comin' home* 24. *Hey girl* 25. *Hey Girl n°2* 26. *Blues with a feelin'* 27. *Lonesome & Lonely*
Lucky Carmichael – vocals M.T. Murphy – guitar + band Chicago, Ill. march 1961

This 19th (!) volume of our very popular Chicago/ The blues Yesterday series features artistes who are the exact opposite to what one's referring to "Chicago blues", the transplanted Mississippi/ Arkansas blues to Chicago during the post-war years, certainly a much too restrictive definition for a more broader musical range.

We don't know a lot about the soulful singer Roy Wright who anyway has recorded substantially for several Chicago labels, starting with four R&B singles in 1957-58 for Paul King et Les Caldwell's Dexler label, then after 1962 for famous DJ Al Benson's bunch of labels (Crash, Vick, Mica) this time much more in the then emergent Soul vein. Roy's emotionally Gospel-tinged vocals and excellent backing musicians (Red Holloway, Denni Tillman) give a special quality to most of those records. Despite our efforts, we haven't been able to gather all Roy's records. Any .mp3 copies - as well as more about this obscure artist - would be most welcome.

Bill Crosby who recorded two Chicago sessions in 1945-46 in a style mixing pre-war Chicago urban blues with the then new R&B arrangements is even more mysterious! It seems that nobody knows anything about this anyway very good singer. He is backed by Chicago blues veterans like piano man Bill Owens, Sugarman Pennigar (who even handles the vocals on one track) or Oett "Sax" Mallard. Some have suggested that Bill Crosby was in fact a nom-de-disque chosen by the producer to cope up with the enormous success of the crooner Bing Crosby!

James Anthony "Lucky" Carmichael (born 12th October 1920 at Harrodsburg, Kentucky) is a very good blues shouter who waxed six titles in Chicago that are famous because of the backing guitar of M.T. Murphy. But there is much more about Lucky who started his musical career very early, playing and dancing with itinerant tent shows throughout the Southern States, being at least for a while the pianist of Bobby Bland in Memphis. He tries his luck in Chicago during the 1950's, singing and playing with Lefty Bates' Orchestra before recording as a solo act. He is reported appearing in clubs in Chicago and Cincinnati until the late 1970's. Lucky died in Cincinnati, Oh. on 7th December 1982.

A lot of thanks to all who helped with this post, particularly Steve Wisner and Sir Shamblin and his first-rate website. ---Gérard Herzhaft, jukegh.blogspot.com

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