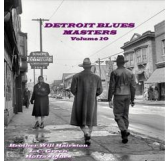


Detroit Blues Masters Vol.10 - Brother Will Hairston, L.C. Green

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01. *My God don't like it I & II* Brother Will Hairston - vocals + band Detroit, Mi. december 1955
02. *The Alabama Bus I & II* 03. *Mighty wind* 04. *The Bible is right* 05. *Seems like a dream* Brother Will Hairston - vocals Louis Jackson – piano Washboard Willie – washboard Detroit, Mi. 1956
06. *Shout school children* Brother Will Hairston - vocals The Dixie Aires – vocals + band Detroit, Mi. november 1957
07. *The Story of President Kennedy* 08. *Holy Ghost don't leave me* Brother Will Hairston - vocals + band Detroit, Mi. november 1964
09. *March on to Montgomery* Brother Will Hairston - vocals Louis Jackson – piano Washboard Willie – washboard Detroit, Mi. 1965
10. *This may be the last time* Brother Will Hairston - vocals The Greater Love of Tabernacle – vocals + band Detroit, Mi. 1968
11. *When the sun is shining* 12. *When the sun was shining n°2* 13. *Remember way back* 14. *Little machine* 15. *Little schoolgirl* 16. *Come back sugar mama* 17. *Hold me in your arms* L.C. Green – vocals, guitar Walter Mitchell – harmonica, vocals Gallatin, Tn. 1952
18. *Going to the river* 19. *Going down to the river* L.C. Green – vocals, guitar Walter Mitchell – harmonica, vocals Robert Richard – harmonica Detroit, Mi. 1953
20. *Pistol blues* 21. *Mary Ann blues* 22. *Hastings street boogie* 23. *Things is going so tough today* 24. *Shine my light* L.C. Green – vocals, guitar Walter Mitchell – harmonica, piano Detroit, Mi. 1954
25. *Hoffa's blues* Anonymous – vocals + band Detroit, Mi. 1966

Let's start this Detroit blues: Volume 10 with the powerful Gospel and protest song shouter and composer Brother Will Hairston, well known for his striking Alabama bus (about the Montgomery racial bus incident) which is the very first song to mention the Reverend Martin Luther King. Thanks to blues writer and researcher Guido Van Rijn, who interviewed Hairston's widow and

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daughter, we know the life of this great singer. Will Hairston was born on 22nd November 1919 at Brookfield, Ms and went to Detroit in 1945 to work on the Chrysler Plant. But he also preached in his local Baptist Church and recorded (mostly on his own labels, with the exception of one session for Joe Von Battle) 27 extraordinary and passionate topical blues/Gospels, mostly about the struggle of the African-Americans against segregation in the Southern States. We have been able to gather 10 of those titles. If anyone has the very elusive other tracks and would be willing to share, any .mp3 copy would be most welcomed. Brother Will died in his Detroit home on March, 7th 1988.

If the best known records of singer-guitarist L.C. Green (born 23 October 1921 at Minter City, Ms - † 24 August 1985 at Pontiac, Mi) have been often reissued, we have here gathered the complete known recordings of this excellent very down-home bluesman who made all of his musical career in Detroit, most often backed by his cousin Walter Mitchell, a blues singer and harp player himself.

At last we have Hoffa's blues, an odd blues made as a tribute to International Brotherhood of Teamsters' leader (and Mafia member) Jimmy Hoffa. It was recorded in 1966 for the Convention of the Truck Drivers' Union that was based in Miami this very year and pressed only for this event. Hoffa who was very popular among workers (and among African Americans for his stand for equal rights) was banned from AFL-CIO before being sent in jail for his Mafia's connections and finally probably murdered by the hired killer Richard Kuklinsky in 1975! Anyway this Hoffa's blues swinging on the John Henry tune is sung by an "anonymous" excellent laid-back R&B singer who is still a mystery. Any more clue?

Thanks to all who contributed to this article: Pierre Monnery and Marc for their generosity in sharing rare tracks; Guido van Rijn for his first rate research about Brother Will Hairston (cf: Blues & Rhythm Magazine n° 167), Mr Mightygroove and D.J. Lucien for their expertise on Hoffa's blues. --- Gérard Herzhaft, jukegh.blogspot.com

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