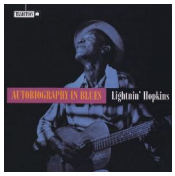
Lightnin Hopkins – Autobiography In Blues (1960)



01. In the Evening, The Sun Is Going Down 02. Trouble in Mind play 03. Mama and Papa Hopkins 04. The Foot Race Is On 05. That Gambling Life 06. When the Saints Go Marching In play 07. Get Off My Toe 08. 75 Highway 09.Bottle Up and Go 10. Short Haired Woman 11. So Long Baby 12. Sante Fe Blues
Solo performer: Lightnin' Hopkins (vocals, guitar).

The famous bluesman's stellar recordings for Tradition epitomized Lightnin's spare "country blues" which was in contrast to the brash and bold Chicago blues so commercially appealing at the time. Lightnin' started his career singing on Houston's street corners for change and drink and his best performances are those intimate concerts.

Lightnin's first two albums for Tradition (AUTOBIGRAPHY IN BLUES and COUNTRY BLUES) were just that--down and dirty, out and out blues, honest and true--perfect documents of Lightnin's style, songs and performance. From the honest portrayal of a family in disarray in "Mama And Papa Hopkins" to the long long road of his Texas youth he sang of in "75 Highway," to the street corner busking given a turn in "Get Off My Toe," Autobiography contains as much of the life this great bluesman lived as could be hammered into twelve concise songs. Those who came later to the life of the blues were deeply influenced by Lightnin'.

The Tradition reissue of this album contain the original comprehensive liner notes by Producer Mack McCormick. The mastertapes were sonically cleansed and digitally remastered for this release. ---Editorial Reviews

Lightnin' Hopkins was one of the most distinctly voiced individuals to sing, play, and talk the Blues. Here, with these twelve songs he skillfully carries the burden of proof that he was (and still is, even in death) a Master of his craft. Soulful and sincere you can't help but be torn on whether or not to smile with joy or cry with sorrow. So the body improvises and forces you to lean closer to your stereo speakers to make sure you don't miss a single word or a single note. A classic and essential album for any Blues fan from a Master to whom so many are indebted.
--- Ryan Costantino

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