MANCE LIPSCOMB
Texas Sharecropper and Songster

Mance Lipscomb • Vocal with guitar F 1001
Recorded in the Brazos Bottoms of Texas
Freddy; Sugar Babe; Going Down Slow; Baby, Please Don't Go; Rock Me All Night Long; Ain't Gonna Rain No More; Jack O'Diamonds Is A Hard Card to Play; Shake, Shake Mama; Ella Speed; One Thin Dime; Going to Louisiana; Mama Don't Allow; Ain't It Hard; 'Bout a Spoonful.

"... a singer with a rough, almost crude style on both guitar and voice, but with rootdeep intensity in his singing that marks him as one of the best examples of this dying style on records ... the album contains a first-rate essay on the performer and the genre by Mack McCormick ..." (Ralph J. Gleason in San Francisco Chronicle)

"... Here is a performer in this day and age who can still sing and play all the archaic pieces, and his vast repertoire spans a period of nearly 50 years of U.S. Negro song. At 65 he is yet a powerful and compelling performer, capable of generating a good deal of excitement, vigor, and solid propulsive drive." (Pete Welding in Down Beat — rating: 5 stars).
Big Joe Williams • Vocal with 9-string guitar

Sloppy Drunk Blues; Yo Yo Blues; President Roosevelt; Forty-four Blues; Greystone Blues; I Want My Crown (vocal by Mary Williams); Mean Stepfather; Brother James; Shake Your Boogie; Vitamin A Blues; She Left Me a Mule to Ride; So Glad.

"...drive, urgency, intensity, and sustained mood. Every one of the numbers here, in fact, is a fine, surging country blues of real force and conviction. ...There is a morose, disconsolate quality to his sharp, piercing singing that is picked up and echoed by the stinging plangency of his nine-string guitar... His is a driving, fiercely rhythmic approach that is both exciting and highly emotional, and it's beautifully captured here." (Pete Welding in Down Beat – rating: four stars.)

Black Ace • Vocal with steel guitar

I'm The Black Ace; Bad Times Stomp; Drink On Little Girl; Santa Fe Blues; New Triflin' Woman; Farther Along; Evil Woman; 'Fore Day Creep; Little Augie; Your Legs Too Little; No Good Woman; Santa Claus Blues; Golden Slipper.

"...this impressive album presents some powerful work by one of the few blues artists recorded playing the "Hawaiian" guitar style... It is his guitar that is particularly breath-taking." (Pete Welding in Down Beat – rating: four stars.)
Lil' Son Jackson

Blues Come to Texas • Vocal with guitar

Blues Come To Texas; Cairo Blues; Ticket Agent; Louise Blues; Sugar Mama; The Girl I Love; Santa Fe Blues; Turn Your Lamp Down Low; Groundhog Blues; Gambler Blues; Charley Cherry; West Dallas Blues; Rollin' Mill Went Down; Red River Blues; Roberta.

"...the 15 selections are in the rough, jagged, heavily rhythmic "deep" blues style, and Jackson's powerful work invites comparison to that of the best Texas blues men of the past ... He intones his lyrics (particularly constructed and devoid of banality or artificiality, and very traditional in feeling) in a doleful, high pitched voice perfectly suited to the high emotional content of the pieces." (Pete Welding - Down Beat)

I Have To Paint My Face

A Random Collection Of Blues, Spirituals, And Ad-Lib Performances from the Mississippi Delta.


"...manages to keep Arhoolie's record of achievement at its normal high level. Sam Chatman contributes the title song (a wryly bitter little thing about the ways of being black in Mississippi - "Say when God made me / Say the moon was giving light / I'm so doggone sorry / He didn't finish me up white") and a mock spiritual ("You shall be free") which contains some hilarious lyrics. (Dick Flohil - Coda)

"...intimate, unposed slices of southern musical life, as frank and spontaneous as candid snapshots. "I Have To Paint My Face" is a model of its kind..." (Pete Welding - Down Beat)
Big Joe Williams: Married Woman Blues; Lil' Son Jackson: Johnny Mae; Lowell Fulson: Good Woman Blues; Mance Lipscomb: Back Water Blues; Jasper Love: Love's Honeydripper; Butch Cage and Willie Thomas: One Thin Dime; Sam Chatman: God Don't Like Ugly; Alex Moore: Wake Up Old Lady; Black Ace: Hitchhiking Woman; Robert Curtis Smith; Stella Ruth; Mercy Dee: I Been a Fool.

"This collection is one of the finest country blues anthology discs I have ever heard. It presents 11 superb examples of the country blues at its most intense and gripping and, at the same time, vividly demonstrates the amazing richness of the idiom... This is an essential collection of vital, undiluted country blues performed with passionate conviction by some of the country's finest rural artists,"...
(P. Welding in Down Beat. Rating: 4½ stars.)

Mercy Dee Walton • Vocal and piano
Sidney Maiden • Harmonica
K. C. Douglas • Electric guitar
Otis Cherry • Drums

Mercy's Troubles; Jack Engine; Lady Luck; Red Light; Walked Down So Many Turnrows; Call The Asylum; Troublesome Mind; Betty Jean; Mercy's Party.

"...Walton knows his area so well, phrases so rationally and easily, projects his songs so effortlessly and with such perceptive nuances that the range and polish of his performances never intrude on their basic force ... extremely effective backing by Douglas and Maiden ... These are masterful performances, vibrant with feeling and shaped by a uniquely finished blues talent." (John S. Wilson – Down Beat – rating: 4 stars).
Alex Moore
Piano and vocal

Whistling Alex Moore’s Blues; Pretty Woman With A Sack Dress On; Rubber Tired Hack; From North Dallas To The East Side; Black Eyed Peas And Hog Jowls; Going Back To Froggy Bottom; West Texas Woman; Frisky Gal; You Say I’m a Bad Feller; Miss No-Good Weed; Boogie In The Barrel; July Boogie.

"...The record presents Moore as he is today—a mellow personality with a story to tell. His songs stem from incidents in his own life...his ideas are as great as ever and if the fingers have lost their youthful agility, it is hardly noticeable...I enjoyed every moment of this L.P. (Derrick Stewart-Baxter - Jazz Journal)"

Lightnin' Hopkins (with Spider Kilpatrick on drums): Meet You At The Chicken Shack; Ice Storm Blues. (with Victor Leonard on drums and Gino Landry on bass): Once Was A Gambler; Speedin' Boogie; Burnin' in L.A.; Bald Headed Woman. (Lightnin' Hopkins - vocal & piano): Do The Boogie; (with acoustic guitar): California Showers; Goin' Out.

"...On a slow number, particularly a selection such as the autobiographical Gambler, Hopkins takes the listener with him into the depth of his existence, an experience at once profoundly depressing yet inexplicably exhilarating...Not the least of the effect he has is through his imagery—amazingly condensed and powerful...listen to the Ice Storm if you wish a graphic example of what is meant by folk poetry." (Frank Kofsky - Down Beat; rating: 5 stars).
New Orleans Jazz at the Kitty Halls

Punch Miller: Shake it and Break it; Kid Thomas: Maggie; Billie & DeDe Pierce: I ain't good looking; Jane's Alley Six: Put on your old grey bonnet; Kid Sheik: Sheik of Araby; Kid Howard: Nellie Gray; George Lewis: Savoy Blues; John Handy; Hindustan.

"...its widely inclusive format makes it a significant contribution as an anthology ... Punch Miller has never been heard to more telling effect ... a fine condensation of Ken Mills ICON series (Dave Waid - Jazz).

"...there is vitality and spirit that can not be imitated ... you can't get more authentic than this." (John S. Wilson - Oakland Tribune)
His guitar, his four sons, and the congregation of St. Luke Powerhouse Church of God in Christ of Phoenix, Arizona: A Prayer; I'm a Soldier; Working on the Building; Yeah, Lord; Getting Richer; Is there Anybody Here?; Holiness Dance.

"...Just how stimulating and disturbing Overstreet can be is best demonstrated in the opening track which develops from a simple prayer to a chilling declamation and dissolves in "speaking with tongues." Just as the tension seems to subside, the leader and his congregation break into I'm a Soldier in the Army of the Lord..." (Paul Oliver – Jazz)

"...a rough, powerful song service that is hot through with excitement and rude, clamorous force, all but overwhelming in its fervent intensity..." (Pete Welding – Down Beat)

Western Union; Lazy Woman Blues; River Blues; I Walked All Night; Between Midnight and Day; Three O'Clock Blues; The Blues Is Killing Me; Did You Ever Feel Lucky; I'm Wild About You Baby; Blues With A Feeling; Why Can't You Cry For Me; There Is A Time For Everything; Lowell Jumps One.

"...One of the best blues singers in the Texas tradition. Primarily known as a rhythm and blues artist, few people being aware of the fact that he served his apprenticeship as accompanist to the legendary minstrel Texas Alexander. Fulson was at his very best during this recorded period of his career. These reissues...feature some "stinging" guitar work, fine country blues singing and thankfully present Fulson as a solo artist, with the rhythm guitar backing of his brother on eleven tracks.

(Lawrence Cohn – Saturday Review)
Joe Turner • Vocal with Pete Johnson's Ork.

Christmas Date Boogie; Radar Blues; Tell Me Pretty Baby; Rocket Boogie 88 – Parts I & II; Trouble Blues; Half Tight Boogie; Wine-O-Baby Boogie; B&O Blues; Old Piney Brown Is Gone; Baby Won't You Marry Me; Skid Row Boogie.

"...these sessions caught Turner singing with the king of forthright, swaggering ease that was characteristic of his best early work. Moreover, he's backed by a band that roars and chuckles right along with him ... Turner comes across with vitality that has rarely been caught on records..." (John S. Wilson—Down Beat; rating: four stars)

Guitar Slim and Jelly Belly

Vocals with Guitars

No More Hard Times; Working Man Blues; Mike and Jerry; Christmas Time Blues; Bad Acting Woman; Snowing and Raining Blues; Why Oh Why; Ups and Downs Blues; South Carolina Blues; Big Trouble Blues; Jail and Buddy Blues; Railroad Blues; Travelin' Blues; Right and Wrong Woman; Betty and Dupree.
Texas Blues
Vol. 1

Lil' Son Jackson: Gambling Blues; Homeless Blues; Lee Hunter: Back to Santa Fe; L. C. Williams: Strike Blues; You never miss the water; I won't be here long; Leroy Ervin: Blue, black, and evil; Rock Island Blues; Lightning Hopkins: Grievance Blues; Big Mama Jump; Death Bells; Issam Hisam: I wonder; Thunder Smith: Santa Fe Blues; Big Stars are falling.

Lightnin'
Hopkins
Early Recordings

Vocal and Guitar

Bluebird Blues; Walking Blues; Unkind Blues; Mad with You; Somebody's got to go; Automobile Blues; Seems funny Baby; Coolin' Board Blues; Airplane Blues; Loretta Blues; Whiskey Blues; You don't know; What can it be; Ida Mae; Goin' back and talk to Mama; Vocal and organ: Organ Boogie.

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BERKELEY 5, CALIF.
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"...an excellent sampling of country string band music as it is played today. The group, from Mississippi, is traditionally steeped in the manner of Bill Monroe, Gid Tanner, and Mainer's Mountaineers to name but a few of the influences. Their repertoire reflects not only good taste and a panorama of traditional material but also other influencing factors. Featured are Negro type blues; novelty numbers, instrumentals, plus ballads, sacred songs and old fashioned harmonizing tunes..." (Lawrence Cohn – Saturday Review)

J. E. Mainer's Mountaineers

The legendary Family from the Blue Ridge Mountains: Mississippi Sawyers; Ramshackle Shack; Run Mountain; Short Life of Trouble; If I lose let me lose; Greenback Dollar; Seven and a half; Sally Goodin; Maple on the Hill; Home in Louisiana; Wild Bill Jones; Shake my mother's hand for me; I'm just here to get my baby out of jail; Mama don't allow.
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                        Madame Sustin

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                  I’m gonna build me a web

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