

Lonnie Brooks - Sweet Home Chicago (1975)

Written by bluesever

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A1 Sweet Home Chicago A2 Two Guitars Shuffle A3 Crosscut Saw A4 Reconsider Baby B1 Things I Used To Do B2 The Train And The Horse B3 Crazy About You Baby B4 Big Leg Woman B5 Mama Talk To Your Daughter Bass – Dave Myers Drums – Fred Below Guitar – Hubert Sumlin (tracks: A-4, B-2-4) Guitar, Vocals – Lonnie Brooks Harmonica – Little Mac Simmons (tracks: except A-2-4, B-4) Piano – Willie Mabon (tracks: except A-2, B-4)

The French Black & Blue label was savvy enough to spirit Brooks into a studio when he was touring the continent in 1975 as part of Chicago Blues Festival '75. As befits the jam-session ambience of the date (pianist Willie Mabon, harpist Mack Simmons, and two-thirds of the Aces are on hand), hoary standards predominate: "Crosscut Saw," "Things I Used to Do," "Mama Talk to Your Daughter," and the ubiquitous title track (which remains a signature song). The omnipresent "The Train and the Horse" returns as well. ---Bill Dahl, AllMusic Review

A prolific musician known for his intense guitar solos and his raspy but strong singing voice, Mr. Brooks told The Chicago Tribune in 1992 that the blues did not come naturally to him at first.

"Then one night, I saw Magic Sam in a little blues club on the South Side," he said, referring to the blues singer and guitarist born Samuel Maghett. "He went onstage right after he'd gotten into a big fight with his girlfriend, and it was like he was taking it out on his guitar.

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“I seen how it came from the heart, so I went home to the basement, and got into that mood that Magic Sam had been in, and the blues came to me.” ---nytimes.com

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