

Barbecue Bob – Chocolate To The Bone (2005)

Written by bluesever

Monday, 14 November 2011 19:37 - Last Updated Monday, 02 September 2013 21:34

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1. *Motherless Child Blues* 2. *Spider And The Fly* 3. *Yo Yo Blues* 4. *Mississippi Heavy Water Blues* 5. *California Blues* 6. *She's Coming* 7. *Barbecue Blues* [play](#) 8. *When The Saints Go Marching In* 9. *Ease It To Me Blues* 10. *Poor Boy A Long Ways From Home* 11. *Diddle-Da-Diddle* 12. *Going Up The Country* 13. *Atlanta Moan* 14. *Good Time Rounder* [play](#)
15. *It's Just Too Bad* 16. *Twistin' Your Stuff* 17. *Chocolate To The Bone* 18. *Black Skunk Blues* 19. *Jacksonville Blues* 20. *She Shook Her Gin*
Personnel: Barbecue Bob (guitar); Curley Weaver (guitar); Buddy Moss (harmonica).

Although Robert "Barbecue Bob" Hicks recorded over 65 extant sides (three are not known to have survived) in a three-year stretch starting in 1927 up to his death in 1931, the 20 collected here make a perfect introduction to the work of this Atlanta-based artist. He may have played a big-city acoustic 12-string guitar, but Hicks' playing was provincial, down-home, and often modal, reducing any chord progression down to one or two chords. He also played embellishments on this instrument with a bottleneck, a rarity then and a rarity now. Usually tuned to an open chord, Barbecue Bob's playing nonetheless shows great diversity and musical flexibility. The 20 sides collected here (all off of old, scratchy 78s and cleaned up as well as can be expected) give a nice cross-section of that diversity as a solo artist, along with a pair of sides showcasing Bob in a small band context with Buddy Moss on harmonica and Curley Weaver on second guitar and another with Hicks backing up former gal pal Nellie Florence on a raucous "Jacksonville Blues." Of special merit for collectors are the inclusion of two previously unissued sides struck from slightly better sounding test pressings, "Twistin' Your Stuff" and "She Shook Her Gin." This expanded collection replaces the 14-track vinyl collection of the same name. --- Cub Koda, AMG

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