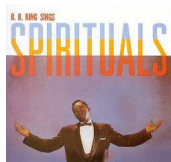


B.B. King - Sings Spirituals (1960)

Written by bluesever

Tuesday, 11 November 2014 09:43 - Last Updated Friday, 14 November 2014 10:09

B.B. King - Sings Spirituals (1960)



*A1 Precious Lord A2 Save A Seat For Me A3 Ole Time Religion A4 Sweet Chariot
A5 Servant's Prayer B1 Jesus Gave Me Water B2 I Never Heard A Man B3 Army Of
The Lord B4 I Am Willing To Run All The Way B5 I'm Working On The Building* B.B.
King – guitar, vocals

For a good part of the 1950s B.B. King recorded for the Bihari Brothers' RPM and Kent labels, and the brothers would in turn issue collections of these singles on LP as part of their discount Crown Records series. B.B. King Sings Spirituals originally appeared as a Crown LP in 1959, but it was less a collection of singles than a true labor of love for King, who took it as an opportunity to return to the Baptist and Pentecostal church music of his childhood. This Diablo Records reissue reproduces the Crown LP in the original sequence. It's easy to forget that King isn't just a blues player with a particularly distinctive guitar style; he is also a singer, and in the 1950s he really worked more to the R&B side of the field than to the blues half, and, as these tracks show, his roots were always deep in gospel. The instrumentation here is sparse and appropriate to the spiritual material, just organ, piano, bass, and drums with tons of handclapping and choral support, and absolutely no guitar. King's singing here is a bit of a revelation to those who only know him for his blues work, as he breaks loose and sings vigorously on numbers like the rollicking "Ole Time Religion" and a stomping "Army of the Lord." This is B.B. King, one supposes, before the thrill was gone. He sounds absolutely jubilant. ---
Steve Leggett, Rovi

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