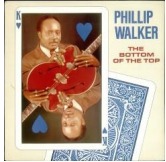


Phillip Walker - Bottom Of The Top (1973)

Written by bluesever

Tuesday, 16 October 2018 12:24 - Last Updated Tuesday, 16 October 2018 12:43

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A1 I Can't Lose (With The Stuff I Lose) A2 Tin Pan Alley A3 Hello Central A4 Hello, My Darling A5 Laughing & Clowning B1 Crazy Girl B2 It's All In Your Mind B3 The Bottom Of The Top B4 Hey, Hey, Baby's Gone B5 Crying Time Phillip Walker - Guitar, Vocals Chops Anthony - Trumpet Dennis Brown - Guitar (Steel) Sammie Coleman - Trumpet Samuel Cross - Sax (Baritone) Nathaniel Dove - Keyboards Lacy Freeman - Sax (Tenor) Curtis Johnson - Bass Charles Jones - Bass David Li - Organ, Sax (Tenor) Glenway McTeer - Drums Joel Peskin - Sax (Alto) Ted Reynolds - Keyboards Johnny Tucker - Drums James Vaughn - Keyboards Dennis Walker - Bass Ian Walker - Vocals Ike Williams - Trumpet Arthur Woods - Keyboards

There weren't many blues albums issued during the early '70s that hit harder than this one. First out on the short-lived Playboy logo, the set firmly established Walker as a blistering axeman sporting enduring Gulf Coast roots despite his adopted L.A. homebase. Of all the times he's cut the rocking "Hello My Darling," this is indeed the hottest, while his funky, horn-driven revival of Lester Williams's "I Can't Lose (With the Stuff I Lose)" and his own R&B-drenched "It's All in Your Mind" are irresistible. After-hours renditions of Sam Cooke's "Laughing & Clowning" and Long John Hunter's "Crazy Girl" are striking vehicles for Walker's twisting, turning guitar riffs and impassioned vocal delivery. ---Bill Dahl, AllMusic Review

Born February 11, 1937 near Lake Charles, Louisiana, in the small town of Welsh, Phillip Walker's earliest musical influences came via the Cajun and Creole rhythms he heard as a youngster. A second cousin to Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown and huge admirer of T-Bone Walker, Phillip began making a name for himself in the early 1950s with his first recording session backing pianist Roscoe Gordon. At the age of 16, Walker left home to tour with Zydeco

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king Clifton Chenier (who incidentally gave the young fledgling Walker his first bona fide guitar) and never looked back.

After relocating to Los Angeles in 1959, Walker cut his first side as a bandleader; the storming "Hello My Darling", produced by J.R. Fulbright for Elko Records. His first full length album didn't appear until much later though. With the help of long-time supporter and producer Bruce Bromberg, Walker cut the excellent LP The Bottom of the Top in 1973 for Hugh Hefner's short-lived Playboy label. Over the next three decades Walker's musical career continued to pick up steam with numerous recording projects for HighTone, Black Top, Rounder, JSP and Alligator Records.

In 2007, Randy Chortkoff signed Phillip Walker to Delta Groove Music and released the critically acclaimed CD Going Back Home. The recording session featured the renowned guitarist going back to his roots and exploring the rich musical history of Louisiana, Texas and West Coast Blues on classic material by Lowell Fulson, Ray Charles, Lonesome Sundown, Lightnin' Hopkins, Champion Jack Dupree and Frankie Lee Sims among others. Going Back Home was later awarded Best Album of 2007 in the New Recordings / Contemporary Blues category by the Living Blues Awards Critics' Poll.

Label CEO Randy Chortkoff shared some of his fond remembrances of working with Phillip these last few years by stating "Phillip was a consummate gentleman and it was an absolute pleasure working with him over the years. It was a pleasure producing his last album Going Back Home. We chose the music on that album based on Phillip's musical tastes and background. He especially enjoyed doing the Champion Jack Dupree song "Bad Blood". It later became a standard in his live repertoire, in addition to one I wrote for him, "Lay You Down". We also had a great time with him years ago at the Moulin Blues Festival in Holland where he performed with The Mannish Boys, and the again at Ground Zero in Clarksdale, Mississippi for our 3rd Annual Delta Groove All-Star Blues Revue. ---Delta Groove Music, jambase.com

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