

Jay McShann - Roll 'Em (1969)

Written by bluesever

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1 *Hands Off* 3:18 2 *Hootie Ignorant Oil* 3:30 3 *Confessin' The Blues* 3:52 4 *Roll' Em* 3:25 5 *Kansas City* 3:43 6 *Our Kinda Blues* 3:38 7 *Rollin' With Rolland* 4:11 8 *Stompin' In K.C.* 5:18 9 *After Hours* 4:22 10 *Hootie Blues* 3:27 11 *'Fore Day Rider* 3:21 12 *Shorty George* 3:34 13 *Jive At Five* 4:41 14 *Just You, Just Me* 4:28 15 *Tain't Nobody's Business If I Do* 4:09 Jay McShann - Composer, Piano, Vocals + Paul Gunther, Candy Johnson, Gus Johnson, Roland Lobligeois, Gene Ramey, T-Bone Walker, Claude "Fiddler" Williams

Pianist Jay McShann sticks to the blues on this enjoyable release, not only welcoming bassist Roland Lobligeois and drummer Paul Gunther but, in a rare (and purely instrumental role) as a sideman, guitarist T-Bone Walker. McShann takes vocals on several of the selections and contributes his accessible brand of blues piano. The results are enjoyable if not essential. A bit more imagination could have gone into picking out a more inventive repertoire. ---Scott Yanow, AllMusic Review

Jay McShann cut this album in 1969 in Paris while on one of his many tours of Europe. By coincidence, T-Bone Walker was in Paris at the same time and was invited to sit in on about half the numbers. I was excited when I saw Walker's name in the personnel, expecting exciting things between him and McShann, but it was not to be: Walker adds little to the proceedings (I wish McShann had employed a horn man like Buddy Tate instead).

McShann sings on four titles in his instantly recognizable pinched, less-than-booming voice, and these are the best tracks on the CD. Every tune is a blues. KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF HER and FOUR DAY RIDER are taken up tempo and are great tunes done nicely by Jay. Little Willie Littlefield's KANSAS CITY is here, and McShann plays and sings it like it's all his own. This is a good CD and should satisfy McShann fans as well as piano blues aficionados. ---Bomozaj, amazon.com

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