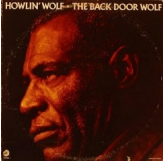


Howlin' Wolf - The Back Door Wolf (1998)

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 25 June 2011 08:31 - Last Updated Wednesday, 10 February 2021 10:52

Howlin' Wolf - The Back Door Wolf (1998)



01. Moving [play](#) 02. Coon on the Moon 03. Speak Now Woman 04. Trying to Forget You
05. Stop Using Me 06. Leave Here Walking 07. The Back Door Wolf [pl](#)

[ay](#)

08. You Turn Slick On Me 09. Watergate Blues 10. Can't Stay Here 11. Speak Now Woman
(Alternate Take)

Howlin' Wolf (vocals, harmonica); Hubert Sumlin, Willie Harris (guitar); Eddie Shaw (tenor saxophone); Detroit Jr. (piano, harpsichord); James Green, Andrew McMahon (bass); S.P. Leary (drums).

This, Wolf's last hurrah, is his final studio album. Cut with his regular working band, the Wolf Gang, everything here works well, despite Detroit Junior's annoying use of harpsichord on several tracks. Highlights include Eddie Shaw's "Coon on the Moon," Wolf's own "Moving" and "Stop Using Me," and both takes of "Speak Now Woman." Not the place to start a Wolf collection by any means, but a great place to end up. ---Cub Koda, allmusic.com

I enjoy listening to the music on this CD very much. This is the last album recorded by the legendary blues giant Chester Burnett, better known as Howlin' Wolf. The CD notes provide a brief history of the man, the myth, the mighty, moanin' Wolf. I learned from them that, although he had been performing since the 1930s, he started his recording career at the age of 40 in 1951. It was in Memphis where he was discovered by Sam Phillips, as in Elvis. His first recording session resulted in a hit, "MOANIN' AT MIDNIGHT", a personal favourite, and landed him a contract with Leonard Chess. For twenty years beginning in 1953, the Wolf made records with Chess. Although, success was late in arriving for him in the US, if you were at the Crawdaddy Club in London in the 1960's, you would have known who he was. He was one of

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the influences for the under-rated British group the YARDBIRDS which was a revolving door for legendary guitarists, Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck and finally, Jimmy Page. In the songs of this CD, Howlin' Wolf and Hubert Sumlin, who was his guitarist since 1954, look back over their recording career update and summarize it. As much as this is a Howlin' Wolf album, it is also a Hubert Sumlin album. If you are learning to play guitar and have yet to master one of Sumlin's leads, this is a good CD to listen closely to. He balances Wolf's low growl with treble notes which bend, slide, jab and smoothly grace a pentatonic scale. Sumlin's style depends on a solid rhythm section to keep things steady, and he is working with a fine one here. CAN'T STAY HERE, SPEAK NOW WOMAN(ALT.) and TRYING TO FORGET YOU are standouts as Sumlin showpieces. The last one is a retrospective tour through Wolf's songs as that woman who is still "trying to wreck" his life has him "moanin' at midnight". If you are interested in the Chicago Blues, or would like to learn the classic guitar solos of Hubert Sumlin, this CD will be interesting to you. ---"Katja R". amazon.com

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