

Otis Spann & Fleetwood Mac - The Biggest Thing Since Colossus (1969)

Written by bluesever

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01. *My Love Depends on You* (5:22) 02. *Walkin'* (2:54) [play](#) 03. *It Was a Big Thing* (3:26) 04. *Temperature Is Rising (100. 2 F)* (6:13) 05. *Dig You* (3:04) 06. *No More Doggin'* (3:00) 07. *Ain't Nobody's Business* (5:15)

[play](#)

08. *She Needs Some Loving* (3:08) 09. *I Need Some Air* (4:40) 10. *Someday Baby* (3:02)
Personnel: Otis Spann – vocals, piano and Fleetwood Mac: Danny Kirwan- (Guitar), John McVie- (Bass), Peter Green- (Guitar), S.P. Leary- (Drums).

The *Biggest Thing Since Colossus* is an album by American blues musician Otis Spann, released in 1969 (see 1969 in music). The album is also notable for the fact that Spann's backing band on this occasion were members of Fleetwood Mac, who were touring in America at the time. Spann had been involved in the recording of the *Blues Jam at Chess* album, and a rapport had been struck between Spann and the British band, which led to their participation on Spann's new album.

It was agreed beforehand that Spann's friend and longtime associate S.P. Leary would play drums on the album, and Fleetwood Mac drummer Mick Fleetwood did not take part in the recording. Guitarists Peter Green and Danny Kirwan, and bassist John McVie all contributed to each track, and it is often claimed that Green produced some of his best playing on this album.

"Walkin'" was released as a single in some countries, with "Temperature Is Rising (98.8°F)" (a different version to that found on the album) on the B-side. Another track was recorded at the sessions, "Blues For Hippies", which was not included on the album. ---Answers.com.

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In January of 1969, British power blues quintet Fleetwood Mac came to Chess Records studios to jam with the likes of Willie Dixon, S.P. Leary, Honeyboy Edwards, and longtime Muddy Waters' pianist Otis Spann. The sessions were so rich and fruitful that three-fifths of the Mac (specifically bassist John McVie and guitarists Peter Green and Danny Kirwin) impressed Spann enough to cut a record with them at the same sessions. While the classic "Country Girl" and a seven-minute "Someday Soon Baby" (which features a lengthy intro from Green on which Spann can be heard barely off mic telling the rest of the band to "let him play on") ended up on the Mac's Blues Jam at Chess double set: remaining cuts included "Dig You" and "Walkin'" and are a near perfect match of Spann's exciting, emotive singing and the Mac's youthful muscle. The Biggest Thing Since Colossus was released on Mac manager/producer/strongman Mike Vernon's London-based Blue Horizon label. ---John Duffy, All Music Guide.

This CD, recorded in 1969, captures two great blues instrumentalists, pianist Otis Spann of Muddy Waters' Chicago blues band and guitarist Peter Green of the original Fleetwood Mac, at the height of their considerable powers. Otis Spann, perhaps THE premier blues pianist of all time, handles the vocals on all tracks, but the beauty of this record is the instrumental interplay between Spann and British blues guitarist Peter Green, a founding member of the original Fleetwood Mac band. While the tracks have a relaxed, jam session feel to them, the playing is anything but sloppy. Green's tone and phrasing are just wonderful. ---David Tepper.

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