

## Leon Redbone – Champagne Charlie (1978)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Champagne Charlie* 02. *Please Don't Talk About Me When I'm Gone* 03. *Sweet Sue (Just You)* 04. *The One Rose (That's Left In My Heart)* 05. *Alabama Jubilee* 06. *Big Bad Bill (Is Sweet William Now)* 07. *Yearning (Just For You)* 08. *If Someone Would Only Love Me* 09. *I Hate A Man Like You* 10. *T.B. Blues* Leon Redbone - Guitar, Vocals Julien Barber - Violin Selwart Clarke - Viola Eddie Davis - Drums Jonathan Dorn - Tuba Dennis Drury - Trombone Tom Evans - Clarinet William S. Fischer - Strings Vince Giordano - Sax (Baritone), Tuba Kathryn Kienke - Violin Regis Landiorio - Violin George Marge- Ocarina Leon McAuliffe - Guitar (Steel) Eurreal Montgomery - Piano Kermit Moore - Cello Sammy Price - Piano Chris Whiteley - Trumpet Ken Whiteley - Banjo, Washboard

From the opening track, "Champagne Charlie," to the dazzling finale, "T.B. Blues," Leon Redbone presents an introspective collection of blues and big band melodies in timeless fashion, a rare feat because of its release date in 1978. The record was highly acclaimed and regarded as the purest of jazz and classic blues by a remarkable legend and icon in this musical form. Most of the record, like the amiable "Sweet Sue (Just You)" and memorable "Big Bad Bill (Is Sweet William Now)," is filled with the best that blues and ragtime has to offer. The music itself is quite light and jolly during the more uplifting moments, with others such as "I Hate a Man Like You" very depressing and sorrowful. The band backing up Redbone is delightful, filled with jubilant horns, oboes, and trumpets. "T.B. Blues" closes out this record as a charming look back into the world of blues via pioneer Jimmie Rodgers. Two melodies written and composed by giant Jelly Roll Morton are featured here, with fresh and stunning new arrangements by Leon Redbone and company, "If Someone Would Only Love Me" and "I Hate a Man Like You." The record is somewhat poorly recorded, losing its listening ability though still portraying its exuberant style and antique mysteriousness. A charming and romantic listen and study of this period of ragtime and blues that will surely not disappoint the average listener. --- Shawn M. Haney, Rovi

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