Ma Rainey – The Essential & Original Southern Blues Collection (2021)



01 – Ma Rainey's Black Bottom 02 – Runaway Blues 03 – Booze And Blues 04 – Prove It On Me Blues 05 – Stack O Lee Blues 06 – Chain Gang Blues 07 – Dead Drunk Blues 08 – Jealous Hearted Blues 09 – Sweet Rough Man 10 – Black Eye Blues 11 – Deep Moaning Blues 12 – Leaving This Morning 13 – Traveling Blues 14 – Sleep Talking Blues 15 – Blame It On The Blues 16 – Toad Frog Blues 17 – Farewell Daddy Blues 18 – See See Rider Blues 19 – Moonshine Blues 20 – Those All Night Long Blues 21 – Southern Blues 22 – Oh Papa Blues 23 – Ya Da Do 24 – Sissy Blues 25 – Bad Luck Blues 26 – Blues Oh Blues 27 – Titanic Man Blues 28 – Dream Blues 29 – Hear Me Talkin To You 30 – Cell Bound Blues 31 – Lucky Rock Blues 32 – Georgia Cakewalk. 33 – Big Boy Blues 34 – Counting The Blues 35 – Damper Down Blues 36 – Screech Owl Blues. 37 – Grieving Hearted Blues 38 – South Bound Blues 39 – Trust No Man. 40 – Wringing And Twisting 41 – Honey, Where You Been So Long 42 – Jelly Bean Blues 43 – Ma And Pa Poorhouse Blues 44 – Morning Hour Blues 45 – New Boll Weavil Blues. 46 – Oh My Babe Blues 47 – Slave To The Blues 48 – Soon This Morning 49 – Those Dogs Of Mine 50 – Yonder Come The Blues

The Mother of the Blues was 38 when she finally began recording, but she'd incorporated the blues into her traveling stage shows since 1902. When she did hit the studio, the results were a high point of 1920s classic female blues. Rainey combined a husky voice with the songbook of a minstrel and a booming delivery. Her lyrics ranged from topical songs about Southern life to personal songs of loneliness and depression. Her original classic "See See Rider Blues," complete with rarely heard introduction, features jazz greats Louis Armstrong, Fletcher Henderson, and Buster Bailey, and the grim "Slave to the Blues" includes Joe Smith and Coleman Hawkins. Ragtime guitarist Blind Blake and hokum-blues duo Georgia Tom and Tampa Red also contribute. --Marc Greilsamer, Editorial Reviews

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