Joe Hill Louis – The One Man Band (1971)



A1 Big Legged Woman A2 She's Taking All My Money A3 Don't Trust Your Best Friend A4 A Jumpin' And A Shufflin' A5 Going Down Slow A6 Hydramatic Woman A7 When I Am Gone A8 We All Gotta Go Sometime B1 Gotta Go Baby B2 Heartache Baby B3 Railroad Blues B4 She May Be Yours B5 Cold Chills B6 Keep Your Arms Round Me B7 Chocolate Blonde B8 Dorothy Mae Recorded between 1949 and 1956.

Joe Hill Louis created quite a racket as a popular one-man blues band around Memphis during the 1950s. If not for his tragic premature demise, his name would surely be more widely revered. Lester (or Leslie) Hill ran away from home at age 14, living instead with a well-heeled Memphis family. A fight with another youth that was won by young Hill earned him the "Joe Louis" appellation. Harp came first for the multi-instrumentalist; by the late '40s, his one-man musical attack was a popular attraction in Handy Park and on WDIA, the groundbreaking Memphis radio station where he hosted a 15-minute program billed as The Pepticon Boy.

Also known as the Be-Bop Boy, Louis made his recording debut in 1949 for Columbia, but the remainder of his output was issued on R&B indies large and small -- Phillips (Sam Phillips's first extremely short-lived logo), Modern, Sun, Checker, Meteor, Big Town (where he cut the blistering "Hydramatic Woman," a tune he'd cut previously for Sun in 1953 with Walter Horton on harp, but Phillips never released it), and House of Sound. Louis was only 35 when he died of tetanus, contracted when a deep gash on his thumb became infected. ---Bill Dahl, allmusic.com

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