

## Matt 'Guitar' Murphy with Larry Thurston- Live in Amsterdam 1988

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Wtorek, 09 Lipiec 2019 15:31 -

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*01 Everyday I Have the Blues 02 Teenie Weenie Bit 03 Stormy Monday 04 Woke Up This Morning 05 Cissy Strut 06 Sweet Home Chicago 07 Sitting on the Dock of the Bay 08 Soul Man - band intros 09 Hey Bartender 10 The Thrill Is Gone* Matt 'Guitar' Murphy (guitar) Larry Thurston (vocals) Geoge Whitty (keyboards) Alex Brooks (drums) Baron Raymonde (sax) Eric Udel (bass) Amsterdam Blues Festival Amsterdam, Netherlands March 19th, 1988

Matt "Guitar" Murphy - 27 December 1929, Sunflower, Mississippi, USA. Murphy moved to Memphis as a child and learned guitar in the 40s. He joined Tuff Green's band before becoming lead guitarist with Junior Parker's Blue Flames, playing on recording sessions with Parker and Bobby Bland. Murphy's brother Floyd replaced him with Parker's band when Matt moved to Chicago in 1952. There he spent seven years in Memphis Slim's band, also recording as the Sparks with Sam Chatman (bass/vocals) and John Calvin (saxophone). He toured Europe in 1963 with the Folk Blues package, recording with Sonny Boy 'Rice Miller' Williamson in Denmark. Murphy found a wider audience through his role in the films *The Blues Brothers* and the sequel *Blues Brothers 2000* as Aretha Franklin's husband and his subsequent tours with the Blues Brothers package. Floyd Murphy joined him for his first solo album, recorded for Antone's in 1990. Since then he has recorded under his own name sporadically. ---oldies.com

Singer Larry Thurston's booming voice has been a recognizable part of soul and R&B since the 80's, when he became the lead vocalist for Matt "Guitar" Murphy's band. It was with Murphy that he proved to be a fiery live performer, fit to sing the standards and Blues Brothers classics that Murphy and his band performed. When Murphy left to join his old bandmates in the Blues Brothers reunion, Thurston began playing with artists like Sam Moore and Eddie Floyd, but

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found himself missing his family as the miles added up on his national tours. Leaving the road in 1994, Thurston kept himself busy with a regular job and an associate pastor position in his church, while he still returned to the blues for various projects. His first solo album, School For Fools, featured Rock N' Roll Hall of Famers Levon Helm and Johnnie Johnson among many other veteran blues players. ---Bradley Torreano, allmusic.com

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