

Memphis Slim – Alone With My Friends (1961)

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1 Highway 51 Blues (Featuring – Curtis Jones) 4:15 2 I Feel So Good (Featuring – Big Bill Broonzy) 2:45 3 Rock Me, Momma (Featuring – Big Bill Broonzy) 3:50 4 Goin' Down Slow (Featuring – St. Louis Jimmy) 3:40 5 Sittin' On Top Of The World (Featuring – Georgia Tom, Tampa Red) 3:40 6 Sunnyland Train 3:55 7 Goin' Down To The River (Featuring – Blind Lemon Jefferson) 3:00 8 I Just Want To Make Love To You (Featuring – Willie Dixon) 3:55 9 I Can Hear My Name A-Ringin' (Featuring – Sonny Boy Williamson) 4:00 10 Going Back To My Plow (Featuring – Big Bill Broonzy) 4:45 Memphis Slim - Piano, Vocals

Memphis Slim devoted all but one of the ten songs on this April 1961 session to covers of some of his favorite songwriters. He's only accompanied by his own piano playing as he provides serviceable, laidback interpretations of numbers by Big Bill Broonzy, Blind Lemon Jefferson, Willie Dixon, Sonny Boy Williamson, and others, as well as his own "Sunnyland Train." Not the first or last place to check out Slim on record. ---Richie Unterberger, AllMusic Review

This album was recorded in London at the end of a European tour in which Memphis Slim performed these "blues roots" songs live. As such, it is an interesting exploration of the evolving piano styles during the blues migration from the Mississippi Delta to Sweet Home Chicago and a great resource for traditional piano blues licks. Slim's singing, however, lacks energy. I did not jump to my feet once while listening to this album. All Kinds Of Blues is a much better showcase of Memphis Slim's solo piano talents from the same period. ---Delta Dave, amazon.com

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