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Lil Hardin Armstrong And Her Orchestra – Chicago - The Living Legends (1962)



A1 Royal Garden Blues 5:45 A2 Red Arrow Blues 4:27 A3 Muskrat Ramble 6:30 A4 Boogie Me 2:47 B1 Clip Joint 4:40 B2 Basin Street Blues 4:54 B3 Eastown Boogie 6:19 B4 Bugle Blues 3:49 Lil Hardin Armstrong – piano, vocals (B1) Darnell Howard – clarinet (A1 to A3, B1 to B4) Franz Jackson – clarinet (A1 to A3, B1 to B4) Bill Martin – trumpet (A1 to A3, B1 to B4) Eddie Smith – trumpet (A1 to A3, B2 to B4) Roi Nabors – trumpet (A1 to A3, B1 to B4) Al Wynn – trombone (A1 to A3, B1 to B4) Preston Jackson – trombone (A1 to A3, B1 to B4) Pops Foster – bass (A1 to A3, B1 to B4) Booker Washington - drums

Despite being active up until her death in 1971, Lil Armstrong only recorded a handful of numbers in the 1950's. This CD reissue (other than the soundtrack of a slightly later television special) has her final recording, a jam session from 1961. On three dixieland warhorses, some blues, a few basic originals and "Bugle Blues," the pianist (who sings on "Clip Joint") leads a spirited if overcrowded band comprised of three trumpets, two trombones, two clarinetists (Darnell Howard and Franz Jackson), bassist Pops Foster and drummer Booker Washington; "Boogie Me" gives her a chance to perform a duet with Washington. The ensembles of the other songs are often riotous and this rather spontaneous and undisciplined outing is generally exciting if erratic. This is fun music by a pianist who should have been documented much more extensively in her later years. ---Scott Yanow, Rovi

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