

Clarence Williams with Louis Armstrong & Sidney Bechet (1998)

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01. *Cake Waklin' Babies From Home* 02. *Everybody Loves My Baby* 03. *Shreveport Blues*
04. *Mandy, Make Up Your Mind* 05. *I'm A Little Blackbird Looking For A Bluebird* 06. *Old Fashioned Love* 07. *Oh Daddy!* 08. *Texas Moaner Blues* 09. *Just Wait 'Til You See My Baby*
Do The Charleston 10. *Papa De-Da-Da* 11. *'Tain't Nobody's Bus'ness If I Do* 12. *New Orleans Hop Scop Blues* 13. *Livin' High Sometimes* 14. *Coal Cart Blues* 15. *Cast Away* 16. *Mean Blues* 17. *House Rent Blues (The Stomp)* 18. *Of All The Wrongs You Done To Me* 19. *Santa Claus Blues* 20. *Pickin' On You Baby* 21. *Wild Cat Blues* 22. *Kansas City Man Blues* 23. *Squeeze Me* 24. *You Can't Shush Katie (The Gabbiest Girl In Town)* 25. *Santa Claus Blues*
Banjo – Narcisse "Buddy" Christian Clarinet – Buster Bailey, Sidney Bechet Cornet – Louis Armstrong), Thomas Morris Piano – Clarence Williams Sarrusophone – Sidney Bechet Soprano Saxophone – Buster Bailey, Sidney Bechet Trombone – Charlie Green, Charlie Irvis + others

Pianist, vocalist, bandleader, and music publisher Clarence Williams is best remembered as the man who organized what turned out to be definitive and historically important recording sessions involving young Louis Armstrong and Sidney Bechet during the years 1923-1925. In 1999 the Giants of Jazz label released a gutsy little 25-track anthology of classic jazz recordings harvested from this early portion of the Clarence Williams discography. In addition to Armstrong and Bechet, the personnel includes cornetist Thomas Morris; trombonist Charlie Irvis; alto saxophonist Don Redman; clarinet-affiliated Buster Bailey heard instead on soprano sax; banjoist Buddy Christian; and vocalists Clarence Todd, Eva Taylor, and her husband, Clarence Williams. Most if not all of the songs performed herein were straight out of the Williams catalog; "Wild Cat Blues" was among the very first Fats Waller tunes ever published by anyone. Other highlights include Waller's "Squeeze Me," "Texas Moaner Blues," "Shreveport Blues," "'Tain't Nobody's Bizness If I Do," "Kansas City Man Blues," and "New Orleans Hop Scop Blues." On "Mandy, Make Up Your Mind," Sidney Bechet plays ensemble and solo contrabass sarrusophone, using a horn fitted with a single-reed mouthpiece rather than the double reed that was customarily inserted into the neck of this oddball instrument, which was named after Pierre-Auguste Sarrus (1813-1876), a competitor of Adolphe Sax (1814-1894), who was the inventor, designer, and purveyor of the saxophone family of instruments. Bechet's stunning

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sarrusophone solo is just one of many highlights to be enjoyed on this excellent sampler of early New York jazz laced with fresh inspiration and improvisational energies imported directly from Chicago and New Orleans. ---arwulf arwulf, AllMusic Review

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