



Muddy Waters

## ANN ARBOR BLUES FESTIVALS BRIEF BLUES BIOS AND ALBUM PICKS

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There were many of the world's greatest blues players at those Ann Arbor Blues Festivals. I thought some of you might like a short introduction to a few of these players, so I put together a short bio on some of the blues artists who were at the Ann Arbor Blues Festivals in 1969 and 1970. These are just my thoughts and my album picks. I also include some basic information on birth and death dates and locations, FYI. I interviewed almost all of these players and many more.

### **Albert King**

Born: 1923-04-25

Indianola, MS

Died: 1992-12-21

Memphis, TN

Guitar, Vocals

Albert King is a take-no-prisoners king of player and one of the three great bluesman named King, the others being B.B. and Freddie. Standing well over six feet tall, king was indeed an imposing figure that, coupled with his serious demeanor, made any performance something you would remember. Although well acquainted with Chicago and the style of blues played there, King's music was more shaped by his contract with Stax records which often used Booker T and The MG's as his backup band for recordings. King's song "Born Under a Bad Sign" is perhaps his signature tune and his blistering guitar playing the envy of all guitar players. My brother Dan, a world-famous guitar repairman, made a custom-made guitar for Albert King, with his name inlaid on the fingerboard.

Born Under a Bad Sign / Stax / 1967

Live wire / Blues Power / Stax / 1968

Laundromat Blues / Edsel / 1984

### **Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup**

Born: 1905-08-24

Forest, MS

Died: 1974-03-28

Nassawadox, VA  
Guitar, Vocals

Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup was one of those artists who really seemed bigger than life in person. Meeting him was an awesome experience. A powerful singer and songwriter, Elvis Presley covered no less than three of Crudup's songs, the most famous being "That's Alright Mama," the tune that really launched Presley's career. Crudup was one of those artists who was kind to everyone he met and meeting that kind of wisdom and kindness is never forgotten. I remember my brother Dan and I drinking Jack Daniels with Arthur Crudup one fine night when Crudup was housed at the Michigan League.

Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup / Fire / 1962  
Give Me a 32-20 / Crown Prince / 1988  
Mean Ol' Frisco / Charly / 1999

### **B.B. King**

Born: 1925-09-16  
Indianola, MS  
Died: 2015-05-14  
Las Vegas, NV  
Guitar, Vocals

B.B. King really deserves his title "King of the Blues," both as singer, guitar player, and person. King's always gracious, gentlemanly style, carefully phrased lyrics, and superb guitar solos coupled with the fact that he always put on a great show, worked with a fantastic band, complete with horns, Hammond B-3 organ - the works. If it was B.B. King, then it was a real experience you would have. I can well remember nights in Detroit, in a school gymnasium, perhaps the only white kids there with B.B. King, Bobby Forte on tenor sax, Duke Jethro on the organ and plenty of beer and fried chicken for sale. That was something.

Live at the Regal / ABC / MCA / 1965  
The Blues / Crown / 1960  
Live in Cook County Jail / MCA / 1971

### **Big Joe Turner**

Born: 1911-05-18  
Kansas City, MO

Died: 1985-11-24  
Inglewood, CA  
Vocals

The "Boss of the Blues," Big Joe Turner hails from Kansas City, which has its own take on the blues. Turner is a blues 'shouter' and has played everything from jazz and big band to rock n' roll. His 1954 hit "Shake, Rattle, and Roll" mad him a national celebrity. Turner, like B.B. King and Bobby 'Blue' Bland, is more uptown, used to a large audience, and puts on a real show.

Joe Turner Sings Kansas City Jazz / Decca / 1953  
Boss of the Blues / Atlantic / 1956  
Things I Used to Do / Pablo / 1977

### **Bobby Blue Bland**

Born: 1930-01-27  
Rosemark, TN  
Died: 2013-06-23  
Germantown, TN  
Vocals

Bobby "Blue" Bland was one of the few blues singers who worked with a big-band sound to also make it with the gut-bucket blues crowd. He has a world of heartache in that voice and there are no credible imitators of his sound. Like B.B. King, Bland toured with a larger band and his performances were carefully put together shows. His apologetic style of singing, which features heartbreak and love lost, endears him to almost all listeners. He is indeed one of the greats.

Blues Consolidate / Duke / 1958  
Two Steps from the Blues / Duke / MCA / 1961  
Touch of the Blues / Duke / 1967

### **Buddy Guy**

Born: 1936-07-36  
Lettsworth, LA  
Guitar, Vocals

Chicago singer and blues guitarist Buddy Guy is world famous today, but in the late 1960s, his incredible guitar style was already the envy of all the younger players. His work on the Junior Wells album "Hoodoo Man Blues" sets the mark for a certain style of

Chicago guitar and is a must-listen for lovers of city blues. Junior Wells and Buddy Guy are an unbeatable combination for pure inner-city blues and you can see it from the photos of the blues festival. I had the good fortune to have dinner with Buddy Guy some years ago.

I Left My Blues in San Francisco / Chess / 1967

Pleading the Blues / Evidence / 1979

Chess Masters / Chess / 1987

### **Charlie Musselwhite**

Born: 1944-01-31

Kosciusko, MS

Harmonica, Vocals

Charlie Musselwhite, along with Paul Butterfield, is one of the few whites to have paid his blues dues early on and to appear on stage with the great performers at those early Ann Arbor blues festivals. "Memphis Charlie" as he was called, came more out of the country side of blues, but soon learned all the nuances of big-city Chicago blues. He was a student of the great harp master Big Walter Horton. Musselwhite started out in Chicago, but has since toured all over the country, in particular on the West Coast. He is still cookin'. I have seen and talked with Musselwhite a number of times over the years.

Stand Back / Vanguard / 1967

Tennessee Woman / Vanguard / 1969

In My Time / Alligator / 1991

### **Clifton Chenier**

Born: 1925-06-25

Opelousas, LA

Died: 1987-12-12

Lafayette, LA

Accordian, Vocals

Creole-born accordion player Clifton Chenier is called the "King of Zydeco," and for good reason. He pretty much single-handedly showed the world what Cajun and Zydeco tunes should look and sound like. His flamboyant style of presenting himself (he wore a large crown and flashed his gold tooth) and that irresistible music

had everyone out of their seats and dancing in the aisles for every performance. Chenier is the king!

Bayou Blues / Specialty / 1970  
King of the Bayous / Arhoolie / 1970  
Out West / Arhoolie / 1974

### **Dave Alexander**

Born: 1938-03-10  
Shreveport, LA  
Died: 2012-01-08  
Marshall, TX  
Piano, Vocals, Bass, Trumpet

Dave Alexander, a very talented singer and pianist, was a very familiar figure in the Ann Arbor scene in the early 1970s, playing both solo and as a sideman. He was very approachable.

Boogie Woogie Riot! / Ace / Arhoolie / 1994  
The Rattler / Arhoolie / 1972  
The Dirt on the Ground / Arhoolie / 1973

### **Doctor Ross**

Born: 1925-01-21  
Tunica, MS  
Died: 1993-0528  
Flint, MI  
Guitar, Harmonica, Vocals

In the tradition of the one-man band players like the West Coast's 'Lone-Cat' Jessie Fuller, Doctor Isaiah Ross plays guitar, harmonica, and sings in various combinations. Ross came out of Mississippi, where he appeared on radio and onto the Memphis scene, eventually working for Sun Records and playing a boogie style of guitar, voice, and harmonica. His sound is instantly recognizable, perhaps because he played the guitar left-handed and upside down and the harmonica backward, with the low notes to the right.

Call the Doctor / Testament / 1965  
I'd Rather Be an Old woman's Baby / Fortune / 1971  
Doctor Ross / the Harmonica Boss / Fortune / 1972

## **Eddie Vinson**

Born: 1917-12-18

Houston, TX

Died: 1988-07-02

Los Angeles, CA

Sax, Vocals

Eddie 'Cleanhead' Vinson is a jazz saxophonist who wandered, to everyone's delight, into the blues and R&B format from time to time. Vinson can play the most down-and-out bar-walking sax you have ever heard, when he has a mind to. He also wrote a number of tunes for Miles Davis. 'Cleanhead' is a terror on the sax.

Clean Head's Back in Town / Charly / 1957

Cherry Red / One Way / 1967

Old Kidney Stew Is Fine / Delmark / 1969

## **Fred Below**

Born: 1926-09-16

Chicago, IL

Died: 1988-08-14

Chicago, IL

Drums

Fred Below, one of the best-known of the Chicago blues drummers, is instantly recognizable by his signature black beret. Below, at first a jazz drummer, crossed over into blues and stayed there. He played with the "Three Aces," Junior Wells key band, and eventually after Wells left, with Little Walter as the "Four Aces" and then "Little Walter and the Jukes." Below played on almost all of Little Walter's greatest hits and also worked with just about every blues player on the scene. He was 'the Man' when it came to choosing a drummer for a sideman.

No solo albums, but Below played on many tunes by Little Walter, Sonny Boy Williamson, Muddy Waters, Jimmy Rogers, and Howlin' Wolf, Junior Wells, and others.

## **Freddie King**

Born: 1934-09-03

Gilmer, TX

Died: 1976-12-28

Dallas, TX

## Guitar, Vocals

The great guitar instrumentalist and singer Freddie King, the "Texas Cannonball," is perhaps most famous for the instrumental "Hideaway" and the song "You've Got to Love Her with a Feeling." Every aspiring guitar player studies King and covers his material, people like Stevie Ray Vaughn, Peter Green, and even Magic Sam. Not the Chicago sound, but the Texas sound. That is Freddie King.

Let's Hide Away and Dance Away with Freddie King / King / 1961

Gives You a Bonanza of Instrumentals / Crosscut / 1965

Hide Away / Starday / 1969

### **Fred McDowell**

Born: 1904-01-12

Roseville, TN

Died: 1972-07-03

Memphis, TN

Guitar, Vocals

I first met Delta-style bluesman Mississippi Fred McDowell in a small room in the Michigan League at the University of Michigan, where he had arrived some days too early for the Ann Arbor Blues Festival. There he was alone in his room, soft spoken and gentle mannered. We hung out. McDowell was the real deal, a great slide player, with a wide repertoire that made that original Delta sound live again in the now.

My Home Is in the Delta / Testament / 1964

Amazing Grace / Testament / 1966

Mississippi Delta Blues / Vol. 2 / Arhoolie / 1966

### **Hound Dog Taylor**

Born: 1915-04-12

Natchez, MS

Died: 1975-12-17

Chicago, IL

Guitar, Vocals

Slide guitarist and singer Hound Dog Taylor was always a force in the local Chicago blues scene. His band, the legendary House Rockers, contained only two players, himself and guitarist Brewer

Phillips, but the two of them really did rock the house, sending folks to the dance floor and they sounded louder than a full band. Here is wild, up-tempo slide music.

Hound Dog Taylor and the Houserockers / Alligator / 1971

Natural Boogie / Alligator / 1973

Beware of the Dog / Alligator / 1975

## **Howlin' Wolf**

Born: 1910-06-10

West Point, MS

Died: 1976-01-10

Hines, IL

Vocals, Harmonica, Guitar

Singer and harp player Howlin' Wolf was indeed an imposing figure. Physically he was huge, but when he started to sing his voice seemed to come from such a deep or faraway place in the mind that he actually would intimidate people. That voice could scare the dickens out of you, so serious could his music sound, and yet the next minute he would be crawling on his hands and knees across the stage clowning - a total ham. Almost every blues fan loves "The Wolf." I did an interview with Wolf that is like an acid trip.

Howlin' wolf / Chess / 1962

The Rockin' Chair Album / Vogue / 1962

Evil / Chess / 1969

## **J.B. Hutto**

Born: 1926-04-26

Blackville, SC

Died: 1983-06-12

Harvey, IL

Guitar, Vocals

The great slide player J.B. Hutto, in the tradition of Elmore James, is known for his powerful voice, sometimes almost incomprehensible singing, and searing guitar work. Hutto and his band called "The Hawks" were among the first to go electric and push the amplified sound to the limit.

Hawk Squat / Delmark / 1968

Sidewinder / Delmark / 1973

Masters of Modern Blues / Testament / 1995

## **John Lee Hooker**

Born: 1920-08-17

Clarksdale, MS

Died: 2001-06-21

Los Altos, CA

Guitar, Vocals

John Lee Hooker is the unrivalled groove master in the blues idiom and deserves his title as the "King of the Boogie." His recordings have an amazing uniformity of quality and his serious and soulful demeanor is matched only by that of the great Muddy Waters himself. Hooker grabs the audience from the first note and holds them transfixed until he stops. He was that good. I remember sitting with him in a tiny Green Room at the Chessmate in Detroit, which Jimmy Cotton was putting on a show out front. I think Cotton and his band lived with us for a week... something like that.

I'm John Lee Hooker / Shout Factory / 1960

Burnin' / Vee-Jay / 1962

The Great John Lee Hooker / Crown / 1964

## **Johnny Shines**

Born: 1915-04-26

Frayser, TN

Died: 1992-04-20

Chicago, IL

Guitar, Vocals

Shines who traveled and studied with the legendary Robert Johnson played in the Delta style, using a lot of slide guitar. Settling in the Chicago area, his powerful voice and understated manner of singing always stayed a little on the country side of city, but that being said, Shines was a real force in modern Chicago-style blues. His performances on the album "Chicago, The Blues Today! Vol. 3" with his friend Big Walter Horton are masterpieces. Hanging out with Johnny Shines, who was very approachable, was a treat that I can never forget. That Chicago the Blues Today" album, below, with Big Walter Horton is one of the finest blues albums I have EV ER heard.

Johnny Shines with Big Walter Horton / Testament / 1969  
Dust My Broom / Flyright / 1980  
Chicago the Blues Today: Vol. 3 / Vanguard / 1967

### **Johnny Winter**

Born: 1944-02-23  
Beaumont, TX  
Died: 2014-07-16  
France  
Guitar

Johnny Winter, blues guitarist and singer, was not on the festival schedule, but like many your white performers, he knew enough to want to be at that historic gathering. He sat in with a number of artists (like Luther Allison) and generally hung out and soaked in the sound.

Second Winter / Columbia / 1969  
Johnny Winter And / DCC / 1970  
White Hot & Blue / Blue Sky / 1978

### **Johnny Woods**

Born: 1917-01-01  
Looxahoma, MS  
Died: 1990  
Guitar, Vocals

Singer and harmonica player Johnny Woods played mostly post-war country-style music. He often travelled with Mississippi Fred McDowell, with whom he also recorded.

Mississippi Fred McDowell and Johnny Woods / Rounder / 1977

### **Johnny Young**

Born: 1918-01-01  
Mississippi  
Died: 1974-04-18  
Chicago, IL  
Guitar, Mandolin, Vocals

Singer, guitar, and mandolin player, Johnny Young hailed from Mississippi and ended up a fixture of modern Chicago blues. Often busking on Maxwell Street with fellow player Johnny Williams, Young went on to record with Big Walter Horton, Muddy

Waters, Otis Spann, and others. He was one of the few players who used the mandolin and has not received all the attention he deserves.

Johnny Young and His Chicago Blues Band / Arhoolie / 1966  
Chicago The Blues Today: Vol. 3 / Vanguard / 1967  
Fat Mandolin / Blue Horizon / 1970

### **Junior Wells**

Born: 934-12-09  
Memphis, TN  
Died: 1998-01-15  
Chicago, IL  
Harmonica, Vocals

Junior Wells is perhaps the paradigm of the inner-city Chicago bluesman. Just pick up a copy of his Delmark recording "Hoodoo Man Blues," which tells all. The singing and harmonica playing on that album is literally incredible and takes you to a place I will bet you have never been to and will never forget. Wells is the essence of what Chicago-style blues is all about.

Hoodoo Man Blues / Delmark / 1965  
Blues Hits Big Town / Delmark / 1977  
Come On in This House / Telarc / 1997

### **Juke Boy Bonner**

Born: 1932-03-22  
Bellville, TX  
Died: 1978-06-29  
Houston, TX  
Guitar, Harmonica, Vocals

Juke Boy Bonner was perhaps best known as a singer and harmonica player, but he also played a lot of guitar. Bonner, who was mostly a solo act, often appeared as a one-man band, and sung of the harshness of urban existence for a black man, with songs like "Going Back to the Country," "Life is a Nightmare," and "Struggle Here in Houston."

One Man Trio / Flyright / 1967  
Going Back to the Country / Arhoolie / 1967  
The Struggle / Arhoolie / 1968

## **Koko Taylor**

Born: 1935-09-28

Memphis, TN

Died: 2009-06-04

Chicago

Vocals

Sometimes referred to as the "Queen of the Chicago Blues," singer Koko Taylor, like Big Mama Thornton and Bessie Smith before her, is a take-no-prisoners vocalist. When she sings her signature (Willie Dixon) tune, "Wang Dang Doodle," she brings down the house and sends dancers flooding onto the dance floor. All modern female blues singers have learned from Koko Taylor.

Koko Taylor / MCA / Chess / 1969

I Got what It Takes / Alligator / 1975

The Earthshaker / Alligator / 1978

## **Little Brother Montgomery**

Born: 1906-04-18

Kentwood, LA

Died: 1985-09-06

Champaign, IL

Piano, Vocals

Chicago blues pianist Little Brother Montgomery was around when blues turned electric and was an integral part of the small club scene in the Windy City. With some roots in traditional jazz, Montgomery's piano blues are more refined than many, as his work with the great guitarist Otis Rush makes clear. He appeared at many folk and blues festivals over the years.

Tasty Blues / Prestige / 1960

Chicago: The Living Legends / Riverside / 1961

Goodbye Mister Blues / Delmark / 1973

## **Lucille Spann**

Born: 1938-06-23

Bolton, MS

Died: 1994-08-02

Vicksburg, MO

Vocals

Lucille Spann, the wife of legendary blues pianist Otis Spann, sang both blues and gospel. She recorded with the likes of Muddy Waters and often toured with her husband Otis.

Bottom of the Blues / Bluesway / 1968

Cryin' Time / Vanguard / 1970

Last Call: Live at Boston Tea Party / Mr Cat / 2000

### **Luther Allison**

Born: 1939-08-17

Widener, AR

Died: 1997-08-13

Madison, WI

Guitar, Vocals

Guitarist, singer Luther Allison was a mighty force at those first two Ann Arbor Blues Festivals. He was on fire. About thirty years of age at the time and at the top of his game, Allison (who was known by the older blues musicians) was himself a fan of these great blues masters and acted as an ambassador for the blues to the emerging white audience. Well-known in Ann Arbor, Allison performed frequently in the city and more or less hung out with the music crowd there. Everyone in Ann Arbor knew and loved Luther Allison.

Love Me Mama / Delmark / 1969

Luther's Blues / Mowtown / 1974

Serious / Blind Pig / 1987

### **Magic Sam**

Born: 1937-02-14

Grenada, MS

Died: 1969-12-01

Chicago, IL

Guitar, Vocals

Magic Sam, who died within months of the 1969 festival was a phenomenon, certainly one of the bit hits of the festival. Magic Sam was for me the very essence of the electric Chicago sound, both as a guitarist and a singer. His album "West Side Soul" is one of the finest I have ever heard, with his swinging syncopated guitar and a voice like none other anywhere. Magic Sam was also kind and welcoming to all who came to know him. I first heard

Magic Sam on Chicago's West Side, playing in a huge Chinese-restaurant-style low ceiling room. It was packed, so that is was all I could do to slip in a press up with my back to the wall. And then I heard this incredible voice, like shimmering water, and the hair just stood up on the back of my neck. Sam was playing that night with "Shakey Jake" Harris, a harmonica player. If you want a blues player who can sing like no one else, and who is also an incredible guitar player, get the album "West Side Soul."

West Side Soul / Delmark / 1967

Magic Touch / Black Top / 1966

Black Magic / Delmark / 1968

### **Mance Lipscolm**

Born: 1895-09-09

Navosta, TX

Died: 1976-01-30

Navosta, TX

Guitar, Vocals, Violin

Mance Lipscomb, the oldest artist at the festival (born in 1895), was in his mid seventies when he appeared at the Ann Arbor Blues festival. Gentle mannered and soft-spoken, Lipscomb harkened back to an earlier time and was more in the tradition of folk blues, although he could play a wide variety of styles. Seeing him perform was a treasure.

Texas Songster / Vol. 3: Texas Songster in a Live Performance / Arhoolie / 1965

Texas Songster / Vol. 2: You Got to Reap What You Sow / Arhoolie / 1964

You'll Never Find Another Man Like Mance / Arhoolie / 1964

### **Mighty Joe Young**

Born: 1927-09-23

Shreveport, LA

Died: 1999-03-27

Chicago, IL

Guitar, Vocals

Singer, guitarist Mighty Joe Young came from Milwaukee and settled in on Chicago's West side, eventually recording on the Delmark label in 1971. Young did not tour as much as some of the other Chicago blues player, but was well-known and

respected around town. He was a permanent fixture on the Chicago scene, holding down steady gigs at various Chicago clubs over the years.

Chicken Heads / Ovation / 1974

Mighty Joe Young / Ovation / 1976

Mighty Man / Blind Pig / 1997

## **Muddy Waters**

Born: 1915-04-04

Rolling Fort, MS

Died: 1983-04-30

Westmount, IL

Vocals, Guitar

If there is one "King" of the Chicago blues, it has to be Muddy Waters. First of all, he acts like a king, always dignified, almost reserved, actually "regal" is the word I am looking for, like a king. I always felt I had to be on my best behavior when I interviewed him or even was at a club where he was playing and I could see that the blues players felt the same way. The Muddy Waters band, like Miles Davis, was the birthing place for all kinds of great blues players, like Junior Wells, Big Walter Horton, Little Walter, Jimmy Rogers, Otis Span, Willie Dixon, James Cotton, Mojo Buford, George Smith, Francis Clay, and many others. The Muddy Waters band always set the bar for comparison and there really was no comparison. Muddy Waters was the living spirit of the Delta sound.

At Newport / MCA / Chess / 1960

Folk Festival of the Blues / MCA / Chess / 1963

Muddy Waters / Chess / 1964

## **Papa Lightfoot**

Born: 1924-03-02

Natchez, MS

Died: 1971-11-28

Natchez, MS

Harmonica, Vocals

Lost to the music world for years, harmonica player Papa Lightfoot was found again in the late 1960s and made an album for Vault Records in 1969. A born showman, Lightfoot loved to perform and is reminiscent of the style of Big Joe Turner.

Natchez Trace / Vault / 1969  
Rural Blues / Vol. 2 / 1969  
Goin' Back to the Natchez Trace / Ace / 1995

### **Pee Wee Crayton**

Born: 1914-12-18  
Rockdale, TX  
Died: 1985-06-25  
Los Angeles, CA  
Guitar, Vocals

Texan Singer and blues guitarist Pee-Wee Crayton is in the tradition of blues-great T-Bone Walker in that his vocals are refined and sophisticated, but his aggressive guitar playing is distinct and instantly recognizable.

Pee Wee Crayton / Crown / 1959  
Blue Guitar Genius / Vol. 1 / Ace / 1982  
Blues After Dark / Charly / 1988

### **Robert Jr.Lockwood**

Born: 1915-03-27  
Marvell, AR  
Died: 2006-11-21  
Cleveland  
Guitar, Vocals

Robert Lockwood, Jr. had the distinction of studying and traveling with two of the greatest bluesman, Sonny Boy Williamson (Rice Miller) and the legendary Robert Johnson (who lived with Lockwood's mother for some ten years). Lockwood was in demand in the Chicago area as a sideman, working with Little Walter, Sunnyland Slim, Eddie Boyd, and many others. For those of us learning blues back in the later 1960s, Lockwood obviously carried the tradition. You could see it in how he carried himself and hear it in his playing. And he was kind and approachable. We all loved to hang around Robert Jr. Lockwood.

Steady Rollin' Man / Delmark / 1970  
Plays Robert and robert / Evidence / 1982  
I Got to Find Me a Woman / Verve / 1998

## **Robert Pete Williams**

Born: 1914-03-14

Zachary, LA

Died: 1980-12-31

Rosedale, LA

Guitar, Vocals

Robert Pete Williams was actually discovered at Angola Prison in Louisiana, where he was serving time for murder. Williams is not a Chicago-style player, but is more country style, with intense songs of his life experience in and out of prison. He was featured at many festivals during the later sixties, often traveling with Mississippi Fred McDowell.

Angola Prisoner's Blues / Arhoolie / 1961

Louisiana Blues / Takoma / 1967

Rural Blues / Storyville / 1972

## **Roosevelt Sykes**

Born: 1906-01-31

Elmar, AR

Died: 1983-07-17

New Orleans, LA

Piano, Vocals

Blues pianist Roosevelt Sykes was born in Louisiana, raised in Arkansas, and relocated to Chicago in 1943, where he charted a number of songs, with his band "The Honeydrippers." He returned to New Orleans in the 1960s, where he remained. I cannot really find words for Roosevelt Sykes, who was of course an awesome pianist and singer, always upbeat and with a friendly word for all who came to know him. His incredible kindness and welcoming nature made him a true ambassador for not only the blues, but for humanity. Roosevelt and my father spent a couple days hanging out and drinking beer. That was a sight to see.

Honeydrinker / Bluesville / 1961

Feel Like Blowin My Horn / Delmark / 1973

Hard Drivin' Blues / Delmark / 1975

## **Sam Lay**

Born: 1935-03-20

Birmingham, AL

Drums, Vocals

Chicago-style drummer Sam Lay came up through the Howlin' Wolf band, playing with the Wolf for six years until he switched to the Paul Butterfield Blues Band and immediately found prominence. He also backed up Bob Dylan at the historic 1965 Newport Folk Festival set when Dylan went electric. Lay taught the drummer of our blues band, a young Iggy Pop, how to do the double-shuffle. Iggy practiced for weeks to get it right, which he did.

Shuffle Master / Appaloosa / 1992  
Stone Blues / Evidence / 1996  
Live on Beale Street / Blue Moon / 2000

### **Son House**

Born: 1902-03-21  
Riverton, MS  
Died: 1988-10-19  
Detroit, MI  
Guitar, Vocals

Hearing Son House live at the Ann Arbor Blues Festivals, one of the greatest of the Delta-style slide players, was like being back there and then where all that music came from. Here was a man who influenced and was revered by players like Muddy Waters, Robert Johnson, and everyone (and all they represent) playing music that would sear your soul and start you to thinking: what is this life all about. This is where the music came from.

Blues from the Mississippi Delta / Folkways / 1964  
The Legendary Son House / Columbia / 1965  
Son House / Folk Lyric / 1995

### **Sunnyland Slim**

Born: 1907-09-05  
Vance, MS  
Died: 1995-03-17  
Chicago, IL  
Piano, Vocals

Blues pianist Sunnyland Slim was born in the Mississippi Delta and moved first to Memphis and finally to Chicago in 1928 where he became one of the most sought-after and beloved blues

players in that city. He has recorded dozens of albums and has appeared on hundreds of albums.

Midnight Jump / BGO / 1969  
Slim's Shout / Prestige / 1969  
She Got That Jive / Airway / 1977

### **Willie Dixon**

Born: 1915-07-10  
Vicksburg, MS  
Died: 1992-01-29  
Burbank, CA  
Bass, Guitar, Vocals

Willie Dixon is central to the history of Chicago blues as a singer, a bassist, arranger, record producer, and above all as a songwriter. Dixon songs include Little Walter's "My Babe," "Evil" and "Spoonful" by Howlin' Wolf, and a host of other hits like: "Back Door Man," "I Just want to Make Love to You," "Wang Dang Doodle," and "Little Red Rooster."

I Am the Blues / Columbia / 1970  
Catalyst / Ovation / 1973  
Hidden Charms / Bug / 1988

### **Lightnin' Hopkins**

Born: 1912-03-15  
Centerville, TX  
Died: 1982-01-30  
Houston, TX  
Guitar, Vocals

Texas guitarist and singer Lightnin' Sam Hopkins is without a doubt one of the most awesome performers I have ever experienced. It was more than just music we heard. Like the really great blues players, such as Muddy Waters, Lightnin' Hopkins literally created time as he went along and if you dared listen, you were caught up in it and his music could rearrange your mind for you. Hopkins was riveting.

Lightnin' Hopkins / Folkways / 1959  
Sings the Blues / Crown / 1961  
Mojo Hand / Collectables / 1962

## **Lazy Bill Lucas**

Born: 1918-05-29

Wynee, AK

Died: 1982-12-11

Minneapolis, MN

Piano, Vocals

Chicago pianist Lazy Bill Lucas moved to Chicago in the early 1940s, hanging out and working with John Lee "Sonny Boy" Williamson and Big Joe Williams. Lester also played with Little Walter, Snooky Prior, and in the Howlin' Wolf Band. He was well known in Minneapolis for the "Lazy Bill Lester Show."

Lazy Bill Lucas / Philo

## **John Jackson**

Born: 1924-02-25

Woodville, VA

Died: 2002-01-20

Fairfax Station, VA

Guitar, Vocals

Blues singer and guitarist John Jackson represents the East Coast Piedmont blues, in the songster tradition - a more country side of blues with an easy-going style.

John Jackson / Rounder / 1966

John Jackson Vol. 2 / Arhoolie / 1968

Don't Let Your Deal Go Down / Arhoolie / 1970

## **Lowell fulsom**

Born: 1921-03-31

Tulsa, OK

Died: 1999-03-07

Inglewood, CA

Guitar, Vocals

West Coast blues singer, guitarist, and songwriter Lowell Fulson wrote such blues standards as "Everyday I Have the Blues" and "Reconsider Baby," a big hit that was later covered by no less than Elvis Presley. Fulson played a wide range of blues, with sideman such as Stanley Turrentine, David "Fathead" Newman, and other jazz greats.

Hung Down Head / MCA / Chess / 1954  
Soul / United / 1966  
Tramp / United / 1967

## **Carey Bell**

Born: 1936-11-04  
Macon, Mississippi  
Died: 2007-05-06  
Chicago  
Harmonica, Vocals

Carey Bell was one of the top harp players in what we might call the second generation of Chicago amplified harmonica players. A student of both Little Walter and particularly Big Walter Horton, Bell cut his teeth working in the bands of Muddy Waters and Willie Dixon, and served as a sideman with many artists on harmonica and bass guitar.

Carey Bell's Blues Harp / Delmark / 1969  
Deep Down / Alligator / 1995  
Gettin' Up: Live at Boddy Guy's Legends Rosa's / Delmark / 2007

## **Jimmy Dawkins**

Born: 1936-10-24  
Tchula, MiS  
Died:2013-04-10  
Chicago, IL  
Guitar, Vocals

Blues singer and guitarist Jimmy "Fast Fingers" Dawkins has been a blues fixture on the Chicago's West Side for many years, eventually recording on the Delmark label with his first solo album "Fast Fingers."

Fast Fingers / Delmark / 1969  
All for Business / Delmark / 1971  
Kan't Shake Dees Blues / Earwig / 1991