

Various • *Depression Blues*

Generally enjoyable three-disc set of slow blues and bluesy ballads features "off-brand," live and import recordings of such familiar artists as Muddy Waters, Buddy Guy, T-Bone Walker, Junior Parker, a young Eric Clapton, B.B. King, Michael Bloomfield (grossly misidentified as Harvey Mandel), Jimmy McGriff and lots more. (LaserLight Digital)

Various • *Kings of New Orleans Rock'n'Roll*

Some of the great names in New Orleans rock'n'roll recorded at Cosimo Matassa's studio: Eddie Bo, Huey "Piano" Smith, Lloyd Price, Joe Tex, Frankie Ford, Bobby Marchan, Mac Rebennack, Lee Dorsey, Earl King, etc. (Music Club†)

Various • *Live on the High Seas*

Recorded on the "Big Red Boat" in the Caribbean, members of the King Snake crew get short in-concert sets, notably from Ace Moreland, Junior Markham, Floyd Miles. Noble "Thin Man" Watts puts the sax max to Percy Mayfield's "Please Send Me Someone to Love," and Sonny Rhodes cleans up with a couple of smokin' slide tracks. (King Snake Records)

Various • *One Million Years of Doo-Wop*

Val Shively and Harvey Holiday get the compilers' wet dream, adding more tracks to their original 1974 *Time Machine* doo-wop compilation — a quarter century later. And you know what? These 19 tracks still sound as timeless as ever. (J/G)

Various • *Slide Guitar: The Streamline Special*

From Robert Johnson to Taj Mahal, Blind Willie McTell to Muddy Waters, 16 excellent examples of unique slide-guitar styles. (Columbia/Legacy)

Various • *Takoma Blues*

Excellent collection of down-home blues recorded by Norman Dayron in the early '60s, with great performances by Son House, Sunnyland Slim, James Cotton, John Lee Granderson, Little Brother Montgomery and others. (Takoma)

Various • *The Bluesville Years, Vol. 9/Down the Country Way*

Low-key country blues sampler features 20 numbers recorded in the early '60s by Wade Walton, Robert Pete Williams, Big Joe Williams, Scrapper Blackwell, Blind Willie McTell, Tampa Red and more. Detailed notes by Samuel Charters. (Prestige)

Various • *The Bluesville Years, Vol. 10/Country Roads, Country Days*

More country blues recorded for Bluesville from 1960-'65, highlighted by two tracks from Doug Quattlebaum's long out-of-print *Softee Man Blues* LP. K.C. Douglas, Snooks Eaglin (sounding like an acoustic rock'n'roller being mistaken for a country blues guy), Jesse Fuller, Henry Townsend, Mercy Dee Walton, Shakey Jake and others round out this fine set. Liner notes and bios by Samuel Charters. (Prestige)

Carl Verheyen • *Slingshot*

Betcha never heard an electric blues excursion that begins: "Under Saturn's rings watching comet trails?" I hadn't, either, before Carl Verheyen, whose cosmic take on blues will engage you or infuriate you. Given his talent, perhaps a bit of both. (Mighty Tiger)

Vicki Victoria • *I'm Having a Good Time*

Peggy Lee-styled music, more jazz/lounge/cocktail music rather than strictly blues, performed by a singer who's got the goods and, as she puts it, knows how to have a good time. (Delight Makers)

DelightMakers
Box 16381
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Phillip Walker • *I Got a Sweet Tooth*

While never a stand-out vocalist, Walker has the ability to hypnotize an audience with his guitar. This doesn't reach that level, but it does present solid work from sessions in New Orleans (featuring pianist David Torkanowsky and drummer extraordinaire Herman Ernest) and Austin (with guitarist Derek O'Brien and keyboards by Riley Osborne). (Black Top)

Robert "Bilbo" Walker • *Rompin' & Stompin'*

"If you're not fussy about originality and dig a classic Delta juke sound (that's got more than a little Chicago grit in it) with tart, searing electric guitars, this might be just the thing for you." [Burke] (Fedora)

Junior Wells • *Blues Hit Big Town*

Dig the spare, skeletal frames that "sidemen" Louis and Dave Myers (Wells' first professional employers), drummer Fred Below, Elmore James, Otis Spann, Willie Dixon and Waters provide for the teenaged neophyte to cut his musical teeth upon. All things considered, these intense, primal tracks are on par with Wells' classic *Hoodoo Man Blues*. Vital stuff. (Delmark)

Andre Williams • *Silky*

Even in his cult early '50s hits ("Bacon Fat," "Jailbait"), there has never been any double in Williams' entendre, and he keeps his reputation intact with this exercise-in-cultdom, 1998 booty call — let titles like "Pussy Stank," "Let Me Put It In" and "Bonin" be your guide. This time, to add to the weirdness, he's backed by a punk band ala Jon Spencer, providing, uh, ambience. (In The Red)

Big Joe Williams • *No More Whiskey*

(1980) Reissue of mostly late-'70s recordings originally out on German L+R label. Joe plays his nine-string guitar on some of his old songs, old-sounding newer songs and even a few gospel tunes. The set is lent additional texture by dint of being recorded at Joe's home in Crawford, Mississippi. (Evidence)

Charles Wilson • *Love Seat*

It was only a matter of time before we got the first Viagra blues song. Too bad it isn't a better one: "Thanks to that good old drug Viagra, I can bone it like I own it again," Wilson croons. Elsewhere, it's equally cliché City — "Backdoor Lover," "Goin' Back to Cheatin'," "Love Seat," but at least a solid vocal performance from the veteran. (Ecko)

Mighty Joe Young • *Blues With a Touch of Soul*

(1970) Appropriately titled disc features Joe with Jimmy Dawkins on second guitar, Johnny "Big Moose" Walker on the keys and some tuff horn backing. Back when a whole LP by a Chicago blues artist was hard to find, Delmark was turning out gems like this that still sound fresh today. (Delmark)

Young Neal & The Vipers • *One's Enough*

Neal Vitullo wears the guitar-slinger's guise with ease, his band is rock-steady and his songs run the gamut of blues subjects. (King Snake Records)