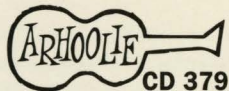


PIANO RED

"Atlanta Bounce"



1. ATLANTA BOUNCE (2:55)
2. TEN CENT SHOT (4:20)
3. PUSHING THAT THING (3:15)
4. RED'S HOW LONG BLUES (3:55)
5. CORRINE, CORRINA (3:00)
6. YOU AIN'T GOT A CHANCE (2:50)
7. MY BABY LEFT ME (4:25)
8. LET'S GET IT ON! (2:50)
9. GOT YOU ON MY MIND (3:20) (*)
10. BOOGIE TIME (2:55) (*)
11. BLUES, BLUES, BLUES (4:00) (*)
12. PLEASE, BABY, COME ON HOME (2:57) (*)
13. TELEPHONE BLUES (3:55) (*)
14. DO SHE LOVE ME (3:25) (*)
15. RIGHT STRING BUT THE WRONG YO-YO (2:25) (*)
16. RIGHT STRING BUT THE WRONG YO-YO (3:15)
17. DON'T GET AROUND MUCH ANYMORE (3:20)
18. UMPH-UMPH-UMPH (3:58)
19. GOT YOU ON MY MIND (3:36)
20. ROCKIN' WITH RED (4:10)
21. RED'S BOOGIE (2:22)

Piano Red (Willie Perryman) -
piano & vocals

Total Time: 72:00

Selections #1 – 15: Produced and recorded by Chris Strachwitz on May 7, 1972 in Macon, Georgia. # 1 – 8 previously issued on ARH LP 1064.

(*) Selections # 9 – 15 previously unissued.

Selections #16 – 20 were recorded live at the Magnolia Ballroom in Atlanta, Ga. on March 5, 1956 with Wes Jackson – guitar; Clyde "Blow Top" Lynn – sax; John Peek – trumpet; "Put" Jackson – drums; and Kid Miller – bass.

Cover photo by Chris Strachwitz

Cover art by Wayne Pope

Selections #1 – 4, 6 – 8, 10 – 14 are composed by Willie Perryman and © by Tradition Music Co. (BMI)

Produced by Chris Strachwitz

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Piano Red

Atlanta Bounce



OVER 60 MINUTES OF
CLASSIC ROCKIN' BLUES



PIANO RED – “Atlanta Bounce”

In August of 1962, on one of my first trips through the South in search of the fantastic music for which that part of our country has been justly famous, a friend of mine, Doug Grimm, took me to the Magnolia Ballroom in Atlanta. That night, one of my all-time favorite pianists was appearing: Piano Red. I first encountered Red’s incredible piano and vocal joyfulness in 1951 when he had his first nationwide hit: *Red’s Boogie* (backed by *Rockin’ With Red*). I was in school at that time and it was the kind of melodic boogie that just stuck with me over the years and I was eagerly looking forward to seeing the man who made that delightful record.

The Magnolia Ballroom on Atlanta’s west side was a rather run-down old dance hall in a rather run-down neighborhood — but it was an historic place where almost every famous Blues artist had appeared when touring that part of the country. By that summer of 1962, Piano Red had acquired a new name: he had become

“Dr. Feelgood” and his band were “The Interns”! Doctors were a popular phenomenon on TV and Red certainly had the ability to make almost anyone feel good with his joyous and swinging music. But the prime reason for his name change was the fact that he had another big hit! Recorded for Epic/Okeh Records in 1961 the name of the song was *Dr. Feelgood*.

That night The Interns played many current R&B hits for the black audience as well as some of their own specialties until the Doctor came on stage and sat down at the piano. From then on it was his show! He rocked the piano and after a few tunes came up to the mike, gave out with a long version of *Dr. Feelgood* and then disappeared into the dressing room. In a way I was disappointed because I loved the man’s piano playing but in the context of that band you just didn’t get much of it. However, the band was popular and so, by up-dating his sound and style, “Dr. Feelgood” continued to be a major entertainer in the

South-East for many years. Since that visit with Piano Red in 1962 I tried to persuade him to record an album all by himself at the piano every time my travels took me through Atlanta. He finally agreed. For several years Red had been working at a bar in Atlanta’s underground entertainment complex known as “Underground Atlanta.” There he played the piano and sang all by himself and the audience loved it! Unfortunately the tourist traffic of the club made Red concentrate on only a handful of his better known tunes and seldom did he get a chance to stretch out and relax with the blues.

Piano Red was born Willie Perryman on October 19, 1913 (some sources give the year as 1911) in Hampton, Ga. His father was a blacksmith and the family was not especially musically inclined and actually discouraged the boys from playing the blues. Among the 15 brothers and sisters there was an older brother, Rufus, who like Willie, was an albino. Rufus was born in 1891 and had already become an accomplished pianist by the time Willie arrived. Rufus

left home before the family moved to Atlanta in 1919. In the 1920s Rufus became well-known as Speckled Red and recorded his big hit *The Dirty Dozen*. Young Willie was strongly influenced by his brother’s success. During the twenties Willie took up playing piano himself and later at various house parties he heard local pianists Cofield West and Ted Wright.

About 1931 Willie got his first real paying job. That summer he went to Clyde’s Rest Camp in Tulula Falls, Ga. (south of Clayton) where he played the latest pop tunes, old standards, and some blues for the white vacationers. During the winter he went back to Atlanta to play house parties. His favorite pianist by now was Fats Waller, whom he once saw in person at a theater in South Carolina. Eddie Heywood, Jr. became another one of his favorites as well as Tampa Red. On the streets of Atlanta Willie encountered Curley Weaver, Barbecue Bob, and Willie McTell. (He recorded with McTell for Vocalion in 1936 but none of the sides were ever

issued.)

During the 1930s Willie Perryman played house parties and dances for all kinds of audiences from resorts to the **Hole in the Wall** on Atlanta's Decatur Street where he was working when the Vocalion session took place. Unfortunately, playing music wasn't much of a living at that time and in spite of his handicap of poor eyesight, Willie earned his living as an upholsterer most of the time.

In 1950, while working for a radio station in Decatur, Ga., Red finally got the chance to make a record which was not only released but became a two sided national hit: *Red's Boogie* and *Rockin' With Red* on RCA Victor. ("Live" versions of both are included on this CD.) The popularity of that record (it allegedly sold well over one million copies) led to many jobs for Red and his jumping little band. In 1954 he joined WAOK in Atlanta where daily radio programs kept him busy. In 1962 Red hit it big again with *Dr. Feelgood* and he changed his name to fit the title of

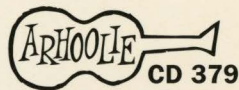
the record! During this time Red traveled widely from Texas to the East Coast and appeared at Harvard, at the famous Apollo Theater in New York, at fraternity dances in the South-East, for tobacco workers in the Carolinas, and at Rhythm & Blues shows in theaters all over the South. Red continued to update the sound of his band and when he recorded *Dr. Feelgood* the band had quite a modern "Soul Music" sound. That hit record carried him through the 60s with a steady band and an active manager who kept them working. Early in 1972 Piano Red appeared in the TV film **The Catcher** which was the movie of the week. Throughout the 1970s Piano Red played various clubs in Atlanta. In 1974 he was invited to play the Montreux Festival in Switzerland. Piano Red died of cancer on July 25, 1985.

Chris Strachwitz – 1972
(with some editing in 1992)



PIANO RED

“Atlanta Bounce”



Over 70 Minutes of Classic BLUES

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2. TEN CENT SHOT
3. PUSHING THAT THING
4. RED'S HOW LONG BLUES
5. CORRINE, CORRINA
6. YOU AIN'T GOT A CHANCE
7. MY BABY LEFT ME
8. LET'S GET IT ON!
9. GOT YOU ON MY MIND (*)
10. BOOGIE TIME (*)
11. BLUES, BLUES, BLUES (*)
12. PLEASE, BABY, COME ON HOME (*)
13. TELEPHONE BLUES (*)
14. DO SHE LOVE ME (*)
15. RIGHT STRING BUT THE WRONG YO-YO (*)
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Cover photo by Chris Strachwitz

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Produced by Chris Strachwitz



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