

# LIGHTNING HOPKINS

## Lightnin'!



1. MOJO HAND (3:00)
2. ROCK ME BABY (3:30)
3. HELLO CENTRAL (4:00)
4. AIN'T IT CRAZY (2:25)
5. LITTLE AND LOW (3:00)
6. HOLD UP YOUR HEAD (3:05)
7. GOOD TIMES HERE, BETTER DOWN THE ROAD (4:25)
8. ANNIE'S BOOGIE (2:20)
9. MY STARTER WON'T START THIS MORNING (3:10)
10. ONE KIND FAVOR I ASK OF YOU (4:25)
11. LITTLE GIRL (6:00)
12. BABY PLEASE DON'T GO (2:55)
13. WHAT'D I SAY? (2:45)
14. I HEAR YOU CALLING ME (2:00)
15. TROUBLE IN MIND (3:10)
16. COME ON BABY (2:35)
17. AT HOME BLUES (3:05)
18. TAKE A WALK (2:55)
19. LITTLE ANTOINETTE (3:35)
20. CUT ME OUT BABY (3:25)

Sam "Lightning" Hopkins — vocals & guitar.

On #1-16 add Francis Clay — drums; on #2 also add Jeff Carp — harmonica, Moose Walker — piano, Paul Asbell — guitar, & Geno Scaggs — bass. Recorded in Berkeley, Ca. 5/20/69. (All previously released on Poppy and Tomato Records; #1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, & 12 previously released on Arhoolie LP 1087. #5, 6, 7, & 8 previously released on Arhoolie LP 1063.)

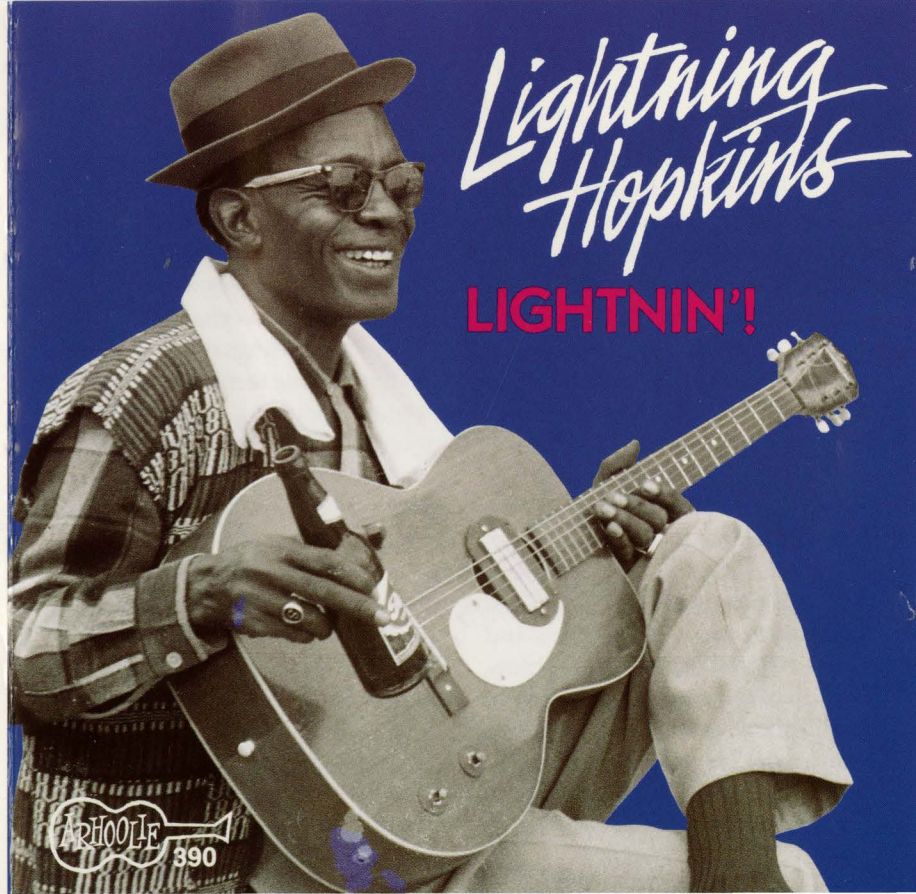
#17-20: recorded in Houston, TX 12/18/67 (previously issued on Arhoolie LP 1034)

All selections (except #12, 13, & 15) composed by Sam Hopkins. #5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 14, 16, 17, 19, & 20 © by Tradition Music Co. (BMI) and administered by Bug Music Co.

Produced and recorded by  
Chris Strachwitz  
Cover by Wayne Pope  
Cover photo by Chris Strachwitz

Total Time: 67:00

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## LIGHTNING HOPKINS

### *Lightnin'!*

When I first heard a record by Sam "Lightning" Hopkins broadcast over a Los Angeles radio station in the early 1950s, I was mesmerized and it turned me into a life long Hopkins fan. That emotional experience also helped me finalize my main goal in life. About eight years after I first heard Lightning's record of *Hello Central*, I started Arhoolie Records with the hope of recording Lightning "live" in the beer joints and juke joints of Houston, Texas. There he poured out his feelings and emotions almost nightly in the form of improvised blues and that is where I first heard Lightning Hopkins in person in the summer of 1959. Fellow blues enthusiast Sam Charters had written me that Lightning was living in Houston and local folklorist Mack McCormick

became my guide. As a high school teacher from California, I was overwhelmed by the power and intensity with which Lightning entertained his customers at these tiny neighborhood taverns. The hoped for "live" recordings never materialized mainly due to my lack of money for good recording equipment and Lightning's fee. We became friends however and over the years I did manage to record Lightning on several occasions. The performances however were never quite as powerful and immediate as those which I had the pleasure of witnessing on those hot evenings in the beer joints of Houston in 1959.

This CD contains almost all the selections (2 more are heard on Arhoolie CD 302) which I recorded in May of 1969 originally for Poppy

(later Tomato) Records, who released them in a double LP package. The company unfortunately failed to live up to the terms of the agreement and in 1982 a California court decided that all rights to these recordings should revert back to Mr. Hopkins. Arhoolie Records subsequently contracted with Mr.

Hopkins for the exclusive rights to re-release and distribute this material in the future. To the studio recordings I have added several selections which originally appeared on Arhoolie LP 1034 but which did not make it onto CD 302.

*(Chris Strachwitz - 1993)*

"This is a twin LP package of twenty tracks by the great blues singer and guitarist and includes many of his older classics, as well as a lot of new material. It is excellently recorded and is one of the best blues packages of the year"

*(Ralph J. Gleason, Rolling Stone)*

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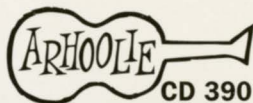
**ARHOOLIE CATALOG, 10341 San Pablo Ave. El Cerrito, Ca. 94530 USA**





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**Over 60 Minutes of Classic BLUES**

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**Sam "Lightning" Hopkins** —  
vocals & guitar.

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