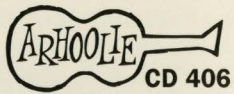


# CLAUDE WILLIAMS

## Live at J's, Vol. 2



1. **BACK HOME AGAIN IN INDIANA** (Hanley) (6:10)
2. **BUT NOT FOR ME** (Gershwin-Gershwin) (6:45)
3. **ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE** (Jerome Kern) (6:05)
4. **A 100 YEARS FROM TODAY** (Young, Young, Washington) (5:45)
5. **ON GREEN DOLPHIN STREET** (Kaper-Washington) (6:50)
6. **ONE FOR THE COUNT** (Frank Smith) (5:55)
7. **THAT CERTAIN SOME-ONE** (Claude Williams) (6:45)
8. **TAKE THE "A" TRAIN** (Strayhorn) (6:45)
9. **FIDDLER'S DREAM** (Claude Williams) (5:10)
10. **THERE WILL NEVER BE ANOTHER YOU** (Gordon-Warren) (5:10)
11. **DON'T GET AROUND MUCH ANYMORE** (Ellington-Russell) (5:45)

Total Time: 68:40

Claude Williams – Fiddle & vocals;

With James Chirillo – guitar; Ron Mathews – piano; Akira Tana – drums; and Al McKibbon – bass. Recorded live at "J's", New York, N.Y. May 1, 1989.

On #7 – 11: Grady Tate replaces Akira Tana on drums, recorded live at "J's", April 24, 1989.

Location recording by Passport Recording, NYC. Scott Lehrer-engineer

Produced and edited by Russ Dantzler & Chris Strachwitz

Cover photo by Russ Dantzler

Cover by Wayne Pope

Final digital editing by Mike Cogan - Bay Records, Berkeley, CA.



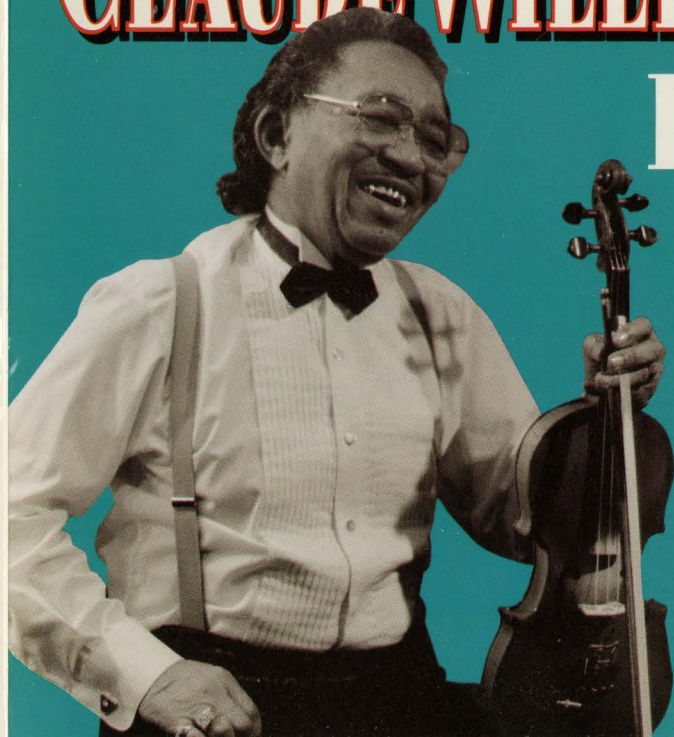
Copyright © & © 1993 by Arhoolie Productions, Inc.

# CLAUDE WILLIAMS

## LIVE

### AT J's PART

# 2



## CLAUDE WILLIAMS – *Live at J's, Vol. 2*

The remarkable thing about this CD is **not** that Claude “Fiddler” Williams is still performing at age 85, but that at 85 he has produced his finest recording ever.

Claude preceded Freddie Green as guitarist in Count Basie’s band and in 1936 won a Downbeat poll as “Best Guitarist of the Year.” But violin was his passion and he went on to become one of the most acclaimed masters of that instrument performing with such jazz greats as Nat “King” Cole, Jay McShann, Buddy Tate, Don Byas, and countless others.

This CD was recorded under ideal circumstances at J’s, a wonderful jazz emporium in New York City. This writer was in attendance when this material was recorded and can attest to the superb “vibes” in the house. J’s had everything you could ask for in a club: good food, honest drinks, excellent sound, and a responsive audience. J’s is gone now and music clubs of such quality are endangered species

as much as the high quality mainstream musicians who appear on this disc. In addition to Fiddler, there is splendid work from Ron Mathews (piano), Al McKibbon (bass), Grady Tate and Akira Tana (drums), and Fiddler’s favorite collaborator James Chirillo (guitar). Each of the great violinists teamed up with wonderful guitarists. Joe Venuti had Eddie Lang, Stephane Grappelli had Django Reinhart, and Fiddler’s guitarist of choice has been Chirillo ever since their first meeting. Listen not only to Chirillo’s solos but to his tasteful work behind the other musicians and you’ll see why he is so in demand.

The tunes include some of the most beloved standards of American popular music, Gershwin, Kern, Ellington, Strayhorn, jazz classics like *On Green Dolphin Street*, *Indiana*, Williams’ original *Fiddler’s Dream*, and two candlelight and romance style vocals; *That Certain Someone* and *A 100 Years From Today*. Fiddler’s vocal skills may come

as a surprise to many listeners. He should be encouraged to sing more often because he has an engagingly warm and intimate way with his voice.

This CD, far from being a trip down

memory lane by a performer who deserves respect merely for his longevity, turns out to be a vital, swinging, inspired set of music by a musician very much in his prime.

Jack Kleinsinger

Producer of “Highlights in Jazz”

(*New York’s longest running jazz concert series*)

---

### Producer’s Note

(Continued from Vol. 1)

Each of the musicians on this record has a brilliant jazz pedigree. Pianist Ron Mathews has worked alongside Max Roach, Roy Haynes, Dexter Gordon, Woody Shaw and Freddie Hubbard. He has ten albums of his own, and will soon be heard on a second album with T. S. Monk. He is currently involved in transcribing Thelonious Monk’s piano music for the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz in Washington, DC.

Bassist Al McKibbon spent the ‘40s and ‘50s working with the likes of Coleman Hawkins, Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie and Count Basie plus a long stint with George Shearing. He left studio work in the early ‘70s to join “The Giants of Jazz.” Along with Dizzy, this

historic group included Art Blakey, Thelonious Monk and Sonny Stitt. He spent over seven years with Sammy Davis before returning to Los Angeles, where he is still in demand for his studio work.

Drummer Grady Tate toured with Sarah Vaughn, and has worked with Benny Goodman, Tony Bennett, Aretha Franklin, Ella Fitzgerald, Lena Horne and Peggy Lee. His vocals are compared by some to Nat “King” Cole.

Akira Tana is one of the most sought-after drummers. His credits include dates with Sonny Rollins, Zoot Sims, Sonny Stitt, J. J. Johnson, Jim Hall and Milt Jackson. Tana currently co-leads a quintet called TanaReid with

bassist Rufus Reid with whom two albums have been recorded on the Concord label. A third effort by Tana Reid titled "Blue Motion" will be released on Evidence Music in early 1994.

Guitarist James Chirillo is presently a member of the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra which played the White House in June, 1993. His relationship with Fiddler began six years ago with a jam session at a party with Ken Peplowski on clarinet and saxophone and Dennis Irwin on bass. Claude has chosen to work with all of these players since then, but none so often as James. With Chirillo, Claude has performed at Carnegie Hall, Wolf Trap foundation for the Performing Arts, Blues Alley in Washington, DC, and many other venues. Most recently, tap dancer Jimmy Slyde and bassist Keter Betts joined Williams and Chirillo as the headliners of the Lowell Folk Festival in Massachusetts.

Claude Williams avoids the esoteric in his music. As he says, he doesn't like to "play music over

people's heads." While everything he plays contains his own inventions, he always winds his way back to the basic melody of his selections. The result is music so friendly and engaging that folk audiences have also begun to clamor to hear Fiddler in recent years. The National Council for the Traditional Arts has featured Claude in two "Masters of the Folk Violin" multi-city tours in 1989. In May of this year he made his first journey to Australia as part of a "Living Traditions" tour and a "Violin Summit" in connection with the Brisbane Biennial Festival. Media there described him variously as "the last of the great swing fiddlers" and "the last great black jazz violinist." The tour included gospel and blues musicians.

Claude's Oklahoma roots were acknowledged in 1989 when he was one of the first to be inducted into the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame along with fellow bandleader Jay McShann. Along with Claude, McShann shares the birthplace of Muskogee and a long term base in Kansas City. Fiddler now

spends most of his time in Kansas City with his wife, Blanche, whom he married in 1991. Lucky Kansas Citians hear him at City Light Jazz Club and other notable venues such as the Nelson Art Gallery. In late 1993 he will join members of K. C.'s Charlie Parker Foundation on a special S. S. Norway cruise dedicated to Dizzy Gillespie.

"Blues" is the foundation of Claude's Kansas City swing style. Fiddler still works the "territory" with regular visits to the internationally acclaimed blues center, The Zoo Bar in Lincoln, Nebraska. He is backed at The Zoo by some of the best blues musicians in the Midwest. His territory also includes Wichita and Lawrence, Kansas and the Chicago Blues Festival.

Claude "Fiddler" Williams will

never grow old. Each time he plays a traditional song it contains his own wit and inventions. He says he learns from the young musicians he teaches and leads. He still practices every day and learns new songs, and he certainly has no plans to retire. "I'd like to play as long as my fingers can do it," he said. "I like to make people feel good and I like knowing they're feeling good because of what I'm doing."

I think that each listener will feel good listening to what Fiddler has recorded. I only wish each of you could experience his charm and witness the wry and knowing smile displayed when he knows he's pleasing his audience.

Russ Dantzler  
Hot Jazz Management  
(212) 586-8125

---

*Special thanks to Julie Lyonn Lieberman, Joseph T. Wilson, Judy Barnett and Blanche — your encouragement and support made this project possible.*

*Dedicated to the musicians of Kansas City's swing legacy, past and present.*

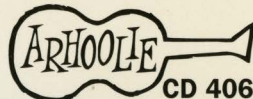
---

For our 100-page illustrated catalog with full details about hundreds of CDs, Cassettes, LPs, Videos, and other information send \$2 to cover postage to:

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

# CLAUDE WILLIAMS

## Live at J's, Vol. 2



### Over 60 Minutes of Classic JAZZ

1. **BACK HOME AGAIN IN INDIANA**  
(Hanley) (6:10)
2. **BUT NOT FOR ME**  
(Gershwin-Gershwin) (6:45)
3. **ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE**  
(Jerome Kern) (6:05)
4. **A 100 YEARS FROM TODAY**  
(Young, Young, Washington) (5:45)
5. **ON GREEN DOLPHIN STREET**  
(Kaper-Washington) (6:50)
6. **ONE FOR THE COUNT**  
(Frank Smith) (5:55)
7. **THAT CERTAIN SOMEONE**  
(Claude Williams) (6:45)
8. **TAKE THE "A" TRAIN**  
(Strayhorn) (6:45)
9. **FIDDLER'S DREAM**  
(Claude Williams) (5:10)
10. **THERE WILL NEVER BE ANOTHER YOU**  
(Gordon-Warren) (5:10)
11. **DON'T GET AROUND MUCH ANYMORE**  
(Ellington-Russell) (5:45)

*Total Time: 68:40*

**Claude Williams** – Fiddle & vocals;

With James Chirillo – guitar; Ron Mathews – piano; Akira Tana – drums; and Al McKibbon – bass. Recorded live at "J's", New York, N.Y., May 1, 1989.

On #7 – 11: Grady Tate replaces Akira Tana on drums, recorded live at "J's", April 24, 1989.

Location recording by Passport Recording, NYC. Scott Lehrer-engineer

Produced and edited by Russ Dantzler & Chris Strachwitz

Cover photo by Russ Dantzler

Cover by Wayne Pope

Final digital editing by Mike Cogan - Bay Records, Berkeley, Ca.

Copyright © & © 1993 by  
Arhoolie Productions, Inc.



0 9629-70406-2 1

