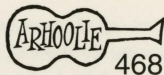


Earl Hooker

The Moon Is Rising



1. THE MOON IS RISING (7:00) (Earl - vocal) (Earl Hooker - Tradition Music Co./BUG Music - BMI)
2. EARL'S BLUES (3:15) (Earl Hooker - Tradition Music Co./BUG Music - BMI)
3. CONVERSION BLUES (4:45) (Earl - vocal) (Earl Hooker - Tradition Music Co./BUG Music - BMI)
4. GUITAR RAG (4:30) (Earl Hooker - Tradition Music Co./BUG Music - BMI)
5. HOOKER N' STEVE (6:45) (Earl Hooker & Steve Miller - Tradition Music Co./BUG Music - BMI)
6. I'M YOUR MAIN MAN (3:30) (Geno - vocal) (Geno Skaggs - Tradition Music Co./BUG Music - BMI)
7. NEW RIVIERA (4:15) (Steve - vocal) (Steve Miller - Tradition Music Co./BUG Music - BMI)
8. STRUNG OUT WOMAN BLUES (4:55) (Steve - vocal) (Steve Miller - Tradition Music Co./BUG Music - BMI)
9. LITTLE CAREY'S JUMP (3:45) (Carey Bell - Tradition Music Co./BUG Music - BMI)
10. TAKE ME BACK TO EAST ST. LOUIS (4:06) (Andrew - vocal) (A. Odom, Moseby, & DeRoby - Tradition Music Co./BUG Music - BMI)
11. IMPROVISATIONS ON DUST MY BROOM (7:40) (arr. by Earl Hooker - Tradition Music Co./BUG Music - BMI)
12. IMPROVISATIONS ON FROSTY (6:40) (arr. by Earl Hooker - Tradition Music Co./BUG Music - BMI)
13. CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER (9:20) (arr. by Earl Hooker)
14. SWINGIN' AT THERESA'S (7:40) (Earl Hooker - Tradition Music Co./BUG Music - BMI)

EARL HOOKER - guitar (& vocal on #1 & #3) with:

Tracks #1 - #8: Louis Myers - harmonica; Steve Miller - piano, organ, & vocals (on #7 & 8); Geno Skaggs - bass (& vocal on #6); Bobby Johnson - drums. Recorded July 18, 1969 at Sierra Sound Studios in Berkeley, Ca.

Tracks #9 & 10: "Pine Top" Perkins - piano; Freddy Roulette - steel guitar; Levi Warren - drums; Geno Skaggs - bass; Andrew "Voice" Odom - vocal on #10; Carey Bell - harmonica on #9; Recorded at Sound Studios, Chicago, Ill. on November 12 and 14, 1968.

Tracks #11 - #13: Eddie Taylor - rhythm guitar; Dave Myers - bass; Arthur "Dog Man" Jackson - drums; Recorded at Pepper's

Lounge, Chicago, Ill. by Dick Shurman on September 10, 1969.

Track #14: same as last, but Eddie Taylor out; Recorded at Theresa's Lounge, Chicago, Ill. by Dick Shurman on September 12, 1969.

Tracks #9, 10, 13, & 14 previously unreleased.

Tracks #1 - 8: previously available on Arhoolie LP 1051

Tracks #11 & 12: previously available on Arhoolie LP 1066

Tracks #1 - 10: Produced by Chris Strachwitz

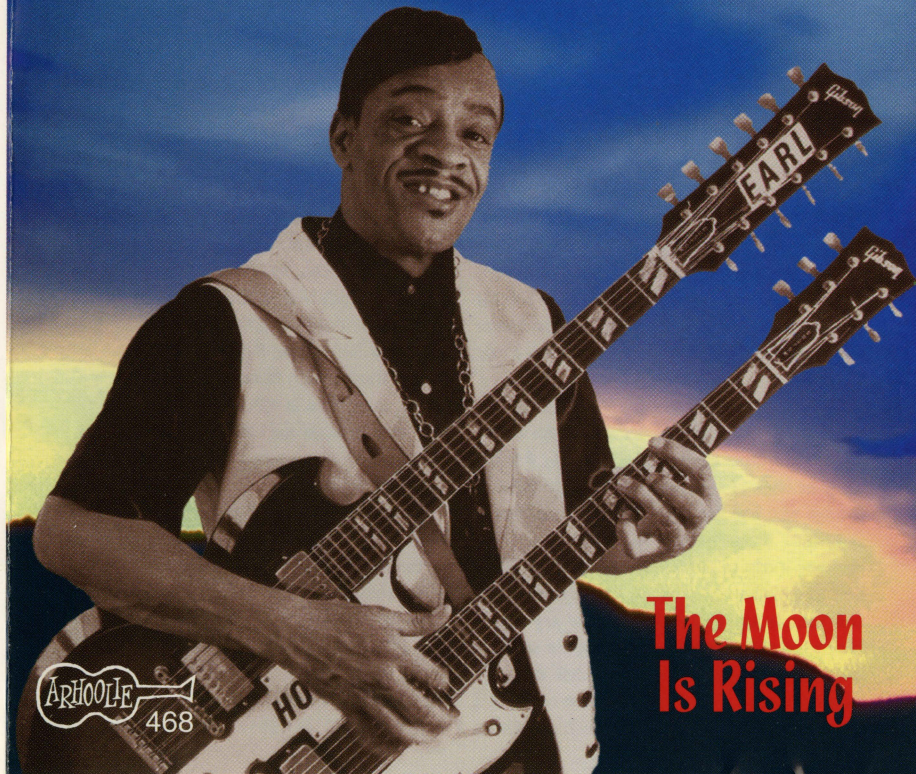
Tracks #11 - 14: Produced by Dick Shurman

Cover by Wayne Pope, & Morgan Dodge

Booklet and tray card layout by Morgan Dodge

Cover photo by Chris Strachwitz

Earl Hooker



The Moon Is Rising



Earl Hooker

- The Moon Is Rising -

Earl Hooker (1930 - 1970) was a musician's musician who became a remarkably versatile and proficient guitarist. Although born in Mississippi, Earl grew up in Chicago and heard a lot of music of all kinds from jazz, blues, and soul to polka and country & western. He had a pleasant, light, natural but not very powerful or unique voice and in the blues field, as in every other category of popular music, that was unfortunately a strike against him. This CD focuses on the many shades of the Blues which were a basic and major ingredient in Earl Hooker's music and which he in turn, took to new levels.

One night in 1968 I happened to be talking with Buddy Guy at a club here in Berkeley where he was appearing. During the course of our chat, I asked him if he knew of any interesting blues guitarists in Chicago who had not have been well documented and who I might be able to record since I was planning a trip to the Windy City soon. Without hesitation, Buddy reeled off two names: Earl Hooker and Johnny Littlejohn. Buddy was especially concerned that someone document the amazing guitarist, Earl Hooker. In those days I had almost no money and every album I recorded was made on a shoestring "budget" if you can use such a business-

like word! I guess my enthusiasm, along with whatever little change I could offer, nevertheless resulted in Earl rounding up some of the finest players in Chicago. Except for cuts # 9 & 10 on this CD (both previously not released) most of the sides we recorded at two sessions in Chicago in November of 1968 are heard on Earl's first Arhoolie LP (now available as CD 324: "Two Bugs And A Roach") which was at the time extremely well received by critics and the public alike. Buddy knew that Earl was an incredibly versatile guitarist who although mainly identified with Blues and Soul music, loved to sit-in with jazz musicians as well as with country bands and I think Buddy told me not to have too narrow a concept of blues when I should meet Earl Hooker!

In the summer of 1969 Earl brought a small band to the West Coast and played a number of gigs here in the Bay Area and went to Southern California for more work and further recording sessions. All the sides he recorded for Arhoolie here in Berkeley on July 18 are on this CD (except "The Hook" which is heard on CD 324). In the fall of 1969 I was asked by the late Horst Lippman to put together the musicians for the annual tour of the American Folk Blues

Festival and of course Earl Hooker was right on top of my list! We also took along Clifton and Cleveland Chenier, John Jackson, Juke Boy Bonner, Alex Moore, Carey Bell and Magic Sam. By then Earl's illness was unfortunately slowing him down considerably and he frequently had a hard time keeping up with the rest of the crew walking up and down those endless airport corridors. Yet Earl was extremely well received and he gave wonderful performances just about every night and enjoyed bringing his unique music to so many fans in Europe. He knew the TB bug had him and the title song of his first Arhoolie album (and CD 324) was a humorous comment and a challenge to the doctors. Not long after his return from Europe, Earl went into the Municipal Tuberculosis Sanitarium in Chicago where he died on April 21, 1970.

Special thanks go to Dick Shurman who had the foresight and sensibility to record Earl at several Chicago clubs with a Sony reel-to-reel tape recorder, 4 cheap mikes which he plugged into 2 Ys - thus giving him two mikes per channel. Dick had

begun to make recordings at clubs in 1968 and had also heard that Earl Hooker was simply one of the best guitar players in town. They met and Earl gave his ok for Dick to make the recordings. Bass player Dave Myers suggested that Dick watch Earl's hands to note how he used zero wasted motion in his playing. These four selections recorded "live" really give us a feeling for what a jazz/blues player Earl Hooker really was. In contrast the session in Berkeley got Earl to overcome his shyness and sing a long blues (the title song) and also interact with several younger, white blues musicians, who he felt needed a chance to be heard. All of it was typical Earl Hooker, making beautiful music by himself as well as in the company of many different musicians and genres.

Chris Strachwitz - May 1998

Also available by Earl Hooker on Arhoolie Records:
Two Bugs and a Roach CD/C 324

Arhoolie Records • Down Home Music Since 1960

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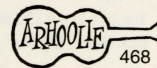
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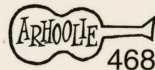


Earl Hooker

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Studio and Live Recordings
with Louis Myers, Steve
Miller, "Pine Top" Perkins,
Freddy Roulette, Carey Bell,
Eddie Taylor and others.

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