

ANNOTATED BY DAVID A. JASEN

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FJ2817

Chicago Dixieland in the Forties

Jimmie Noone's Quartet - Richard M. Jones Jazzmen



COVER DESIGN AND PHOTO BY RONALD CLYNE

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SIDE I

Jimmie Noone's Quartet

Compiled: J. Lyons

1. A Porter's Love Song
2. Goodbye, Don't Cry
3. Blues for Roy
4. Lady, Be Good
5. Memories of You
6. Honeysuckle Rose

SIDE II

Richard M. Jones Jazzmen

From the Archives of Moses Asch

1. 29th & Dearborn
2. New Orleans Hop Scop Blues
3. Jazzin' Babies Blues
4. Canal Street Blues

Annotated: David A. Jasen

Remastering: Carl Seltzer

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Chicago Dixieland in the Forties

**Jimmie Noone's Quartet -
Richard M. Jones Jazzmen**

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DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE ALBUM

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CHICAGO DIXIELAND IN THE FORTIES

Compiled and Annotated by
David A. Jasen

This is a most interesting disc featuring two major figures of New Orleans near the end of their long and musically prolific lives in Chicago, the city that made dixieland jazz history throughout the nineteen twenties. Highly respected in jazz, Jimmie Noone and Richard M. Jones not only had parallel careers, but quite frequently played in each other's bands. Both were born near New Orleans, grew up in that city, learned their instruments in early childhood, were among the first to leave to play in Chicago, firmly established themselves there, made many recordings and continued to perform - sometimes with each other - until their deaths.

Jimmie Noone was born on a farm in Cut-Off, Louisiana, ten miles outside of New Orleans, on April 23, 1895. His family moved to New Orleans when he was fifteen years old and Sidney Bechet started giving him lessons on the clarinet. Beginning his illustrious career substituting for Bechet in Freddie Keppard's band, he stayed for a year. Played with both Kid Ory and Papa Celestin, in addition to forming his Young Olympia Band. Noone went to Chicago in 1917 and stayed there until 1942 when he went to Hollywood. While in Chicago, he played with such Dixieland giants as King Oliver and Doc Cooke. After appearing in the 1944 film "The Block Busters," Jimmie Noone died in Los Angeles on April 19, 1944 from a heart attack.

Richard Myknee Jones was born in Donaldsville, Louisiana on June 13, 1889. By the time he was fourteen, he had mastered the trumpet, alto horn, guitar and piano. Thus, he not only joined the marching bands for the parades, but also played the famous sporting houses in Basin Street of Lulu White and Josie Arlington. His official salary there was a dollar a night, but it was a poor night when he made less than one hundred dollars in tips! Later, he was to perform in bands with such luminaries as Freddie Keppard, Jimmie Noone, Sidney Bechet, King Oliver and Armand Piron. Jones left New Orleans to open the Chicago branch of Clarence Williams' publishing company and music shop. His first song, "I'm Lonesome, Nobody Cares For Me," was published by George W. Thomas and was featured by Sophie Tucker in her act. This encouraged Jones to write further, and he composed such jazz standards (which he later recorded) as Jazzin' Babies Blues, All Night Blues, Trouble in Mind, Twenty Ninth and Dearborn, and Riverside Blues. He started his recording career in 1921 with two piano solos for Gennett Records and continued throughout his life with various jazz bands. His connection with recording companies became solidified when he was put in charge of the race record division of Okeh Records. It was Jones who asked Louis Armstrong to put together the recording band of the Hot Five. During his years with Okeh, he signed and recorded such famous blues singers as Bertha Hill, Sippie Wallace, Lillie Delk Christian and George Thomas (who had published his first song). At the end of his life, Jones was a talent scout in charge of blues recordings for the new Chicago label, Mercury Records. He died in Chicago on December 8, 1945.

SIDE ONE - Jimmie Noone Quartet

Jimmie Noone, after spending many years with Doc Cooke's Dreamland Orchestra (a twelve-piece band), preferred a relatively small group from the late thirties on. His quartet, recorded at the Yes Yes Club in Chicago on July 17, 1941, consisted of Noone on clarinet; Frank Smith, piano; John Frazier, string bass; and Wallace Bishop, drums. From his theme song, SWEET LORRAINE, the group segues into James P. Johnson's A PORTER'S LOVE SONG TO A CHAMBERMAID. This is followed by GOODBYE, DON'T CRY; BLUES FOR ROY; the Gershwin charmer, LADY, BE GOOD; Eubie Blake's MEMORIES OF YOU; and Fats Waller's HONEYSUCKLE ROSE.

SIDE TWO - Richard M. Jones' Jazzmen

These recordings, which were to become Richard M. Jones' last, were organized for the Session Record Shop in Chicago on March 23, 1944. His Jazzmen consisted of Bob Shoffner, trumpet; Preston Jackson, trombone; Darnell Howard, clarinet; Richard M. Jones, piano; John Lindsay, bass; and Baby Dodds, drums. The composers of the tunes, besides those of Jones' own, were those who contributed most to his musical life. 29th & DEARBORN was, of course, written by Jones and gives everyone a chance to be fully heard. NEW ORLEANS HOP SCOP BLUES was the favorite written by songwriter-publisher-pianist-singer George Washington Thomas. JAZZIN' BABIES BLUES was also, ironically, the first of Jones' compositions which he recorded and here, with his band, among his last recordings. CANAL STREET BLUES, written by those two remarkable New Orleanians, King Oliver and his protege Louis Armstrong, fittingly brings to a close this concert of music by New Orleanians living out of their lives in Chicago.

SIDE ONE - Jimmie Noone's Quartet
Total Time - 22:12

Jimmie Noone's Quartet

1. A Porter's Love Song

2. Goodbye, Don't Cry

3. Blues for Roy

4. Lady, Be Good

5. Memories of You

6. Honeysuckle Rose

SIDE TWO Total Time - 16:13

Richard M. Jones Jazzmen

1. 29th & Dearborn

2. New Orleans Hop Scop Blues

3. Jazzin' Babies Blues

4. Canal Street Blues

Credits

Compiled and Annotated: David A. Jasan

Remastering: Carl Seltzer