

# Little Brother Montgomery

## Farro Street Jive

FARRO STREET JIVE  
PINETOP'S BOOGIE WOOGIE  
SPECIAL RIDER BLUES  
VICKSBURG BLUES  
OUT WEST BLUES  
LONESOME MAMA BLUES  
ALABAMA BOUND  
SWEET MOMMA  
ST. LOUIS BLUES  
UP THE COUNTRY BLUES  
DANGEROUS BLUES  
YOUR DADDY'S DONE GONE MAD



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M787  
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1968

MUSIC LP

# Little Brother Montgomery

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Every musician who has ever talked to me about Little Brother Montgomery has been unstinting in his praise both of the man and of his musicianship. In a business filled with frustrated careers, bruised egos, and inevitable jealousies therefrom, this is highly unusual. So is the talent of Eurreal Montgomery.

If praises were money, this little blues giant would long ago have been a millionaire. Roosevelt Sykes, Fats Waller, Big Joe Williams, Memphis Slim, Skip James, Lonnie Johnson, Louis Armstrong — these and many others have openly expressed their admiration for the "genius pianist" once known as the "Forty-Four King." Sunnyland Slim, an old-time rival who operated out of the same bag, with a background roughly similar, seemed particularly well qualified to evaluate the man. We interviewed him at length for WXFM's weekly **Blues International** program in Chicago, his present hometown; and while the original subject for the interview was Slim's old friend Robert Johnson, Little Brother's name kept recurring like a second theme.

"He's my famous piano, and Teddy Wilson comes second! Fats Waller was one of my piano players too, but Little Brother is my 'ace boon' — in all classes of music. Brother can play things that Teddy Wilson, Fats Waller, and none of the rest of them would think of playing! And I like all of them — all he plays! Because he plays them so plain and so good 'til anybody can understand Little Brother's playing — and get a feeling out of it! He could make a horse stop and listen!

"He's the best musician you're gonna meet! All the big musicians respect him! The man just can play piano! And you got to stop to think and listen to it! There's a lot more people try to play like him, but he's cleaner and better and plainer and everything! He's one of the greatest piano players in the world, in my books!"

To get a quotable reaction, I asked Slim how Little Brother compared to a mutual friend whose pianistic and vocal talents have made him so popular in Europe that he's made the place his headquarters. Slim's voice became withering in its scorn — injured in its astonishment at the stupidity of such a question! "Why ..... would get up off the stool for me! And Little Brother could play better than me when he was just getting started!"

You know, it takes a lot to make a blues man with LPs of his own make a statement like that! And Little Brother is a lot! He's a "musician's musician."

Like many another "musician's musician," his greatest popularity is still something for the future. He might very well say with Gustav

Mahler (and I never asked him if he'd ever heard of Gustav Mahler!), "My time will yet come."

This collection — the one you hold in your hands — may send up a few flares. Brother's famous VICKSBURG BLUES, the title number dating back to 1936 for its first recording; the popular NO SPECIAL RIDER BLUES, that Skip James found so profitable he "borrowed" it; these — and several of the others — just could do it!

Like Sunnyland said, "He can play the blues right now — in this house — and you can get all the feeling you need with the blues! Any kind of blues he wants to play!"

Notes by Raeburn Flerlage

### Side I

- |          |  |      |
|----------|--|------|
| Band 1 — | <b>LONESOME MAMA</b><br>Jet Music Publishers, Inc. (BMI)   | 3:07 |
| Band 2 — | <b>ALABAMA BOUND</b><br>Jet Music Publishers, Inc. (BMI)   | 2:17 |
| Band 3 — | <b>SWEET MOMMA, YOUR DADDY'S DONE GONE MAD</b><br>Jet Music Publishers, Inc. (BMI)                 | 3:22 |
| Band 4 — | <b>I DON'T FEEL WELCOME HERE</b><br>(Stingaree Blues)<br>Jet Music Publishers, Inc. (BMI)          | 3:19 |
| Band 5 — | <b>FARRO STREET JIVE</b> (Farish St. Jive)<br>Jet Music Publishers, Inc. (BMI)                     | 2:14 |
| Band 6 — | <b>PINETOP'S BOOGIE WOOGIE</b><br>Music by Clarence "Pinetop" Smith<br>Melrose Music Corp. (ASCAP) | 4:10 |

### Side II

- |          |  |      |
|----------|--|------|
| Band 1 — | <b>NO SPECIAL RIDER BLUES</b><br>Jet Music Publishers, Inc. (BMI)                        | 3:34 |
| Band 2 — | <b>ST. LOUIS BLUES</b><br>Music by W. C. Handy<br>Handy Brothers Music Co., Inc. (ASCAP) | 4:56 |
| Band 3 — | <b>UP THE COUNTRY BLUES</b> (Sippie Wallace)   | 2:57 |
| Band 4 — | <b>VICKSBURG BLUES</b><br>Jet Music Publishers, Inc. (BMI)                               | 4:00 |
| Band 5 — | <b>OUT WEST BLUES</b><br>Jet Music Publishers, Inc. (BMI)                                | 3:26 |
| Band 6 — | <b>DANGEROUS BLUES</b><br>Jet Music Publishers, Inc. (BMI)                               | 4:09 |

Unless otherwise indicated, all songs by Little Brother Montgomery.  
Recorded by Raeburn Flerlage  
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