



V/A

Living Is Hard: West African Music in Britain, 1927-1929

Label

HONEST JON'S RECORDS

Format

2LP

Catalog Number

HJR 033LP

EAN

4047179196918



Store Price

\$16.99

Release Date

11/16/18

Territory

NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE

Genre

FILE UNDER - V/A - WORLD



Exclusively Distributed by

FORCED EXPOSURE

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DESCRIPTION

2018 repress. Honest Jon's Records has prepared a series drawing on some of the earliest recordings in the EMI Hayes Archive – recovered from more than 150,000 78s – staggering music from Iraq, Turkey, Caucasia, Lebanon, Iran (including sides made in Old Street, London, in 1909), Egypt, and the Belgian Congo. This series opener presents the music of the West African underground of 1920s Britain, recorded at Hayes and released on the Zonophone label (which exported nearly all the records to West Africa). You can hear Caribbean influences here, the promise of highlife there, but *Living Is Hard* mostly disavows fusion and assimilation. And by contrast with antecedents in the history of black music in Britain – minstrelsy and spirituals, for example, ragtime and jazz – these recordings are unhitched from the protocols of a white listenership. These are startling, trenchant, elemental roots – carrying troubled news home, along with signs of the new African nationalism – and an enthralling glimpse of other lives, another time. Artists include: **Oni Johnson, Isaac Jackson, Ben Simmons, Harry E. Quashie, Douglas Papafio, Prince Zulamkah, The West African Instrumental Quintet, The Ga Quartet, Domingo Justus, James Tucker, John Mugat, Kumasi Trio, James Thomas, Nicholas De Heer, George Williams Aingo** and **James Brown**. Deluxe gatefold sleeve with large insert including **Mark Ainley's** liner notes plus photos, etc.

TRACKLISTING

01. **Oni Johnson** - Garse Yer Fido
02. **Isaac Jackson** - Nitsi Koko Ko Ko
03. **Ben Simmons** - [Blank]
04. **Harry E. Quashie** - Anadwofa
05. **Ben Simmons** - Mu Kun Sebor Wa Wu
06. **Douglas Papafio** - Kuntum
07. **Prince Zulamkah** - Ligiligi
08. **The West African Instrumental Quintet** - Adersu - No. 2
09. **The Ga Quartet** - Abowe Dsane Nmaka Tso
10. **Domingo Justus** - Buje
11. **Ben Simmons** - Obu Kofi
12. **James Tucker** - Rue Bai Rue Bai
13. **John Mugat** - Bukay
14. **Kumasi Trio** - Asin Asin Part 2
15. **Douglas Papafio** - Sakyi
16. **James Thomas** - Jon Jo Ko
17. **Nicholas De Heer** - Edna Buchaiku
18. **George Williams Aingo** - Akuko Nu Bonto
19. **Nicholas De Heer** - Ewuri Beka
20. **George Williams Aingo** - Mi Agur Bi
21. **James Brown** - Mukorin-Mantun
22. **Nicholas De Heer** - Wasiu Dowu
23. **John Mugat** - Alahira



HIGHLIGHTS

- 2018 repress. Honest Jon's Records commences a series drawing on some of the earliest recordings in the EMI Hayes Archive, encompassing the music of Iraq, Turkey, Caucasia, Lebanon, Iran, Egypt and the Belgian Congo.
- The first volume in this series presents music from the West African underground of 1920s Britain, recorded at Hayes and released on the Zonophone label.
- Including artists such as **James Tucker, Ben Simmons, Prince Zulamkah, Harry E. Quashie**, and more.
- Deluxe gatefold sleeve with large insert including **Mark Ainley's** liner notes plus photos, etc.

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