

Original Field Recordings ★ Vol.1
LIVING COUNTRY BLUES USA



Bowling Green John & Harmonica
Phil Wiggins from Virginia ★ USA

**BOWLING GREEN JOHN
CEPHAS & HARMONICA
PHIL WIGGINS**
Living Country Blues USA
Vol.1

Label

L+R RECORDS

Format

LP

Catalog Number

LR 713116LP

EAN

4003099713116



Store Price

\$17.99

Release Date

08/16/24

Territory

NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE

Genre

FILE UNDER - B - ROCK

DESCRIPTION

Living Country Blues USA is a series of albums on L+R Records. The material was collected by German Blues experts **Siegfried A. Christmann** and **Axel Küstner** on an extended trip through the south of the USA in the fall of 1980, in the form of so-called "Field-Recordings" – recordings made in the natural surroundings of the artists and not in the studio. Travelling 10,000 miles by car in two and a half months, they used 180,000 feet of tape and took hundreds of photographs to document various aspects of country blues, as well as work songs, fife and drum band music, field hollers and rural Gospel music, performed by 35 artists, some of whom appear on record for the first time. *Vol. 1* presents **Bowling Green John & Harmonica Phil Wiggins**. What is so remarkable about the duo is their intensive commitment to the black blues and gospel tradition – without diminishing the quality or spontaneity of their performances. By hearing **John Cephas** with his guitar, one quickly gets impressed by the power of his playing. Deeply rooted in the so-called "Piedmont" blues tradition of the East Coast, ragtime influence and complex rhythms produce a strong emphasis on melody – much in contrast to the harsh Mississippi blues with its hard beat and drive. When recording this album, Phil Wiggins was 26 years old and despite his young age he already could be rated as one of the top blues harp players. Influences include **Hammie Nixon**, **Sonny Boy Williamson**, **Little Walter**, and **Shakey Horton**. He played alongside **Flora Molton**, **Archie Edwards**, **Big Chief Ellis**, the late **Esther Mae "Mother" Scott**, and **John Jackson**, as well as jamming with such well-known blues veterans as **Sunnyland Slim**, **Johnny Shines**, and **Louisiana Red** – shaping his technique to perfection, be it in the country blues or with amplified harp in the best Chicago tradition.

TRACKLISTING

01. Black Rat Swing
02. Eyesight To The Blind
03. Guitar & Harmonica Rag
04. Rising River Blues
05. I'm A Pilgrim
06. Chicken Can't Roost Too High For Me
07. I Ain't Got No Lovin' Baby Now
08. West Carey Street Blues
09. Richmond Blues
10. Pony Blues
11. Goin' Down The Road Feelin' Bad

HIGHLIGHTS

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- Travelling 10,000 miles by car in two and a half months, they used 180,000 feet of tape and took hundreds of photographs to document various aspects of country blues, as well as work songs, fife and drum band music, field hollers and rural Gospel music, performed by 35 artists.
- *Vol. 1* presents **Bowling Green John & Harmonica Phil Wiggins**, who display their intensive commitment to the black blues and gospel tradition – without diminishing the quality or spontaneity of their performances.

Press Contact: publicity@forcedexposure.com

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60 Lowell St, Arlington, MA 02476
ph: (781) 321-0320 • fx: (781) 321-0321
fe@forcedexposure.com