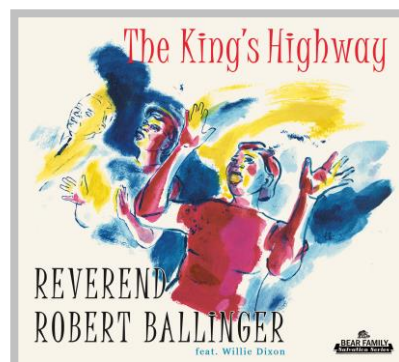


# BEAR FAMILY RECORDS



## PRODUCT INFO (CD) March 5, 2021

Artist **Reverend Robert Ballinger feat. Willie Dixon**  
Title **The King's Highway**  
Label Bear Family Productions  
Catalog no. BCD17575  
EAN-Code 5397102175756 Price code: AR  
Format 2-CD (Digisleeve) with 36-page booklet  
Genre Gospel, R & B  
No. of tracks 35 approx. 90:00 min.  
Release date March 5, 2021



**BEAR FAMILY  
PRODUCTIONS** 

## INFO:

- **A double CD with recordings by Rev. Robert Ballinger kicks off the new gospel CD series on Bear Family!**
- **Mostly with a trio, accompanied by bass and drums, the pianist and singer recorded some of the most powerful Blues-drenched Gospel numbers in the 1950s and early '60s.**
- **Musically, the Reverend's vocals are more reminiscent of blues and R&B shouters than of traditional gospel singing in African-American houses of worship; as a pianist, he impresses with his extreme, pounding playing in the best barrelhouse tradition.**
- **Recordings for United, Chess, Artistic and Peacock.**
- **Extensive liner notes by Chicago author Bill Dahl, carefully remastered recordings.**

From the 1930s on, Chicago served as the nurturing cradle of modern gospel music, thanks to the incredibly prolific Thomas A. Dorsey and his small army of protégés, choirs, and choruses. Every so often, an outsider with his own concept crashed the Windy City's burgeoning gospel scene—and sanctified evangelist Rev. Robert Ballinger's thundering musical vision was about as close to rock and roll as you could come while still working in service of the man above. Rev. Ballinger entered a Chicago recording studio for the first time in late 1952 under the auspices of United Records. The seven sides wouldn't see light of day until Delmark Records, now owner of the United's archives, featured five of the reverend's sides on a 1997 gospel CD. The piano-pounding Ballinger debuted in 1955 on Chess Records with an inspiring rendition of Sister Rosetta Tharpe's rollicking *This Train* as blues legend Willie Dixon applied thundering bass (Dixon dug it so much that he wrote *My Babe* around its chord changes and melody), then migrated over to Eli Toscano's Artistic logo in 1958 for another one-off single before cutting two wild early '60s albums for Don Robey's Peacock label—and they're all on this compilation. There was nothing stodgy about the Cincinnati-born reverend; he rocketed straight for the heavens every time out, punching his 88s with two-fisted abandon and unleashing a gritty vocal attack not all that far removed from that of Ray Charles. Give Rev. Ballinger a chance, and he's liable to save your soul with his high-flying sanctified houserockers!

## TRACKLISTING:

### CD 1:

Swing Down Chariot No Bread Somebody Saved Me He's My Everything The Little Black Train I John Saw The Number  
The King's Highway New World Standing In The Safety Zone This Train God Rode In A Windstorm Oil Our Vessel  
Drop Your Net Don't Wonder 'Bout Him There Are Days Poor Wayfaring Pilgrim Holy Spirit

### CD 2:

Two Wings Hold My Body Down So Glad Working The Road How I Got Over Something Has Happened  
Hold On Til Jesus Comes Walk The Streets Of The City Our John Saw The Number Joy In His Company I Got To Tell It  
He Rode Let It Be Standing In The Safety Zone The Life I Sing About My Soul Loves Jesus Sweet Lamb Walk On By Faith

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# BEAR FAMILY RECORDS



## ALSO AVAILABLE:

**Jerry Lee Lewis:  
Old Time Religion**



BCD16685 AH  
1-CD (Digipak) with 36-page booklet  
EAN: **4000127166852**

**Various Artists:  
SUN Records: SUN Gospel**



BCD16387 AH  
1-CD with 36-page booklet  
EAN: **4000127163875**

**Blackwood Brothers:  
Roc-A-My-Soul**



BCD16308 EK  
5-CD Box (LP-size) with 82-page book  
EAN: **4000127163080**

**Reverend Robert Wilkins:  
Prodigal Son**



BCD16629 AH  
1-CD (Digipak) with 28-page booklet  
EAN: **5397102166297**

**The Prisonaires:  
Just Walkin' In The Rain**



BCD15523 AH  
1-CD with 28-page booklet  
EAN: **4000127155238**