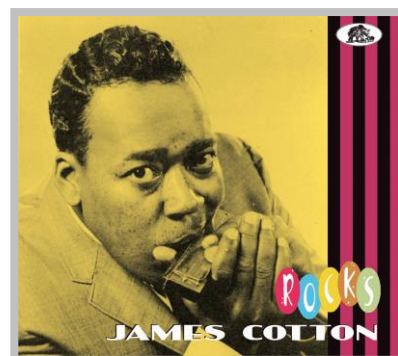


BEAR FAMILY RECORDS



PRODUCTINFO (CD) June 7, 2024

Artist **James Cotton**
Title **Rocks**
Label Bear Family Records
Catalog no. BCD17651 Price code: AR
EAN-Code 4000127176516
Format 1-CD (Digipak) with 36-page booklet
Genre Blues, Rock 'n' Roll
No. of tracks 27 approx. 75:00 min.
Release date June 7, 2024



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RECORDS 

INFO:

- **Bear Family Records® dedicates a CD album in the 'Rocks' series to James Cotton (1935-2017), one of the most dazzling personalities in the world of blues harmonica.**
- **27 recordings, made between 1953 and 1968, including four numbers from his very first recording session, nine tracks with the Muddy Waters Band, two songs from rare British EPs with Chris Barber and Alexis Korner, 12 recordings with Cotton as bandleader, including a Verve recording (first time on CD).**
- **Important, innovative musicians such as Pat Hare, Otis Spann, Willie Dixon, Paul Butterfield, J. T. Brown, Harvey Simmons and Otis Clay can be heard.**
- **The extensive booklet contains discographical information on each track, an exciting photo gallery and detailed notes by Martin Hawkins.**
- **Careful re-mastering guarantees premium audio quality.**

The harmonica as a lead instrument for rock and roll!

Yeah, sure, why not?

Especially when the mouth harp is wielded by James Cotton, the man who grew up with blues giants during the formative years of rock 'n' roll and went on to have one of the first R&B bands to play on the white rock festival circuit. Cotton – one of the most celebrated figures in the world of blues harmonica – was also a rock 'n' roll man. For that reason, this is one of the most significant discs in our 'Rocks' series.

Growing up in a world where rock heroes, and most blues heroes, were singers, guitar players, sometimes piano players, maybe sax men, Cotton said he modelled his harp playing on the saxophone parts in rhythm and blues and jazz. He was championed by rock bands as both an influence and a comrade in the electric blues-rock years. The 'Chicago Tribune' reviewed his harp playing as "*gritty, gutsy, ferociously uninhibited, and what great harp work is all about.*"

This CD of superfine music shows where the blues came from and where R&B and rock 'n' roll took it. The tracks are full of invigorating harp riffs and solos but they also contain excellent vocal performances by James Cotton himself and by his one-time boss, Muddy Waters.

It was Sonny Boy Williamson who taught Cotton the basics of getting a tune out of the harmonica, and of an audience, in Mississippi. After a spell in West Memphis and recording for Sun, Cotton then recorded and worked for years with the master of the hard-edged Chicago blues, Muddy Waters. And then he formed his own band in the mid-1960s. It was called The James Cotton Blues Band, but he and every one of his men knew how to rock out too. Cotton said: "*I try to play from deep inside me and to keep the music honest. I prefer it upbeat and up-tempo too because all the problems people have are gone once we start playing.*"

James Cotton was born in July 1935 near Tunica, Ms. He lived variously in West Memphis, Chicago, Memphis, and Dallas. He died in March 2017 in Texas, aged 81.

Cotton continued to record into the 1970s and for another three decades beyond. He won a Grammy and other awards and was still guesting at music festivals and picking up accolades at awards shows in his eighties. But all that is another story. For the moment, we're focusing here on how the earlier music of James Cotton... Rocks.

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TRACKLISTING:

CD:

My Baby Rocket 88 Hold Me In Your Arms Don't Start Me To Talkin' Feelin' Good Straighten Up Baby
Cotton Crop Blues She's Got It (Muddy Waters vcl) Rock Me (All Night Long) (Muddy Waters vcl) Rock Me Mama
You Don't Have To Go (Muddy Waters vcl) Off The Wall Short Dress Woman (Muddy Waters vcl) Oh Why? (I Need You So Bad)
The James Cotton Blues Band: Take Your Hands Off Her I Won't Go On (Muddy Waters vcl) Jimmy's Jump Meanest Woman
(Muddy Waters vcl) Lovin' Cup Elevate Me Mama (Muddy Waters vcl) Three Harp Boogie I Feel So Good (Muddy Waters vcl)
Honest I Do Love Me Or Leave Me My Dog Can't Bark (Muddy Waters vcl) Next Time You See Me Cotton Crop Blues

ALSO AVAILABLE:

Arthur Crudup: Rocks

BCD17555 AR
1-CD (Digipak) with 24-page booklet
EAN: 5397102175558



Various Artists: Bear Family Records Rocks Vol. 1

BCD17734 AR
1-CD (Digipak) with 36-page booklet
EAN: 4000127177346



Roy Brown: Rocks

BCD17749 AR
1-CD (Digipak) with 36-page booklet
EAN: 4000127177490



Clarence ,Gatemouth' Brown: Rocks

BCD17537 AR
1-CD (Digipak) with 36-page booklet
EAN: 5397102175374



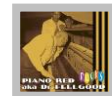
Slim Harpo: Rocks

BCD17129 AR
1-CD (Digipak) with 32-page booklet
EAN: 4000127171290



Piano Red aka Dr. Feelgood: Rocks

BCD16639 AR
1-CD (Digipak) with 48-page booklet
EAN: 4000127166395



Champion Jack Dupree: Rocks

BCD17536 AR
1-CD (Digipak) with 36-page booklet
EAN: 5397102175367

