

SPECIAL EDITION

GEORGE WINSTON
BALLADS AND BLUES 1972

The Early Recordings



piano solos

Deland, Florida Medley (Songs 1-4)

1. **Highway Hymn Blues** (George Winston) 3:04
2. **Song** (George Winston) 3:25
3. **Go 'Way From My Window** (Traditional, arranged by George Winston) 1:32
A traditional Appalachian ballad collected by folklorist John Jacob Niles (1892 - 1980). Also see www.john-jacob-niles.com
4. **The Woods East of Deland** (George Winston) 3:04
To Megan Corwin
.....
5. **Brenda's Blues** (John Fahey) 1:46
A stride piano arrangement of a solo guitar piece by the great guitarist John Fahey (1939-2001), from his 1965 recording THE TRANSFIGURATION OF BLIND JOE DEATH (reissued on the Fantasy Label). John recorded this piece in the Standard Tuning, in the key of C, capoed up to the third fret to sound in the key of E flat, and I play it in the key of A flat. Also see www.johnfahey.com and www.revenantrecords.com
6. **Miles City Train** (George Winston) 6:07
Inspired by train rides to and from Miles City, Montana in the 1950s, when there was still a passenger train line going through southern Montana. Only freight trains run through southern Montana now and the only passenger service in Montana is through the High Plains of northern Montana along Highway 2.

7. **New Hope Blues** (George Winston) 1:44
Inspired by the great stride pianist, Thomas "Fats" Waller (1904-1943), especially by his solo and band recordings between 1929 and 1936, and by the great solo blues/ragtime guitarist Blind Blake, who recorded prolifically in the 1920s. Also see www.redhotjazz.com/fats.html and www.georgewinston.com/faqs.html#fats
8. **Theme for a Futuristic Movie** (Michael S. Roth) 1:57
Written by composer/pianist Michael S. Roth in 1970 when he was sixteen. Michael has been involved in many things, including composing chamber music, new opera, and many scores for drama, film, and especially theater. He was the musical director and pianist for the great play THE EDUCATION OF RANDY NEWMAN, and he also worked with Randy Newman on his musical FAUST. Also see rothmusic.wixsite.com

9. **Rag** (George Winston /John Creger) 6:03

The first verse came to me while I was walking the streets of Canandaigua, New York, upstate, in September 1971. I had hitchhiked there from California to see Elcina (who I had met in Deland, Florida a year before, and we are still in touch), and I showed up at her and her mom's house, basically unannounced, and like a stray cat made myself at home, due to their good graces.

Earlier that year, after hearing Fats Waller's recordings, I had immediately switched from the organ to solo piano, and her mom basically managed me and found me a few places to play. She introduced me to her elderly mother, which yielded the song *Elcina's Grandmother's Rag* (song #13 in the bonus track section). I also worked during the harvest in the grape vineyards out in the countryside by Bear Hill for a few weeks (which later yielded a guitar piece called *Canandaigua Grape Vineyard*).

I hitchhiked back to California after a month, and later met Jon Monday, who introduced me to John Fahey, who signed me to record this album in 1972.

The fifth section is by guitarist John Creger, from his piece *Peggy Dear*. This piece is dedicated to John Creger and the late guitarist Carl Wyant.

10. **Untitled** (George Winston) 5:54

BONUS TRACKS:

These are demos of live performances of the five other songs that I considered recording for the original issue of this album.

11. **Blues in G** (George Winston) 3:48

-Live performance from McCabe's in Santa Monica, CA in 1975.

12. **You Don't Love Me** (Willie Cobbs and Ellas McDaniel [Bo Diddley]) 4:48

Composed by the Blues/Soul singer Willie Cobbs and Bo Diddley (1928 - 2008) around 1961.

-Demo from 1971.

13. **Elcina's Grandmother's Rag** (George Winston) 3:20

Inspired by Leila Kyte McMillan (1888-1981), and her daughter Ina Mason, and her granddaughter Gwen Elcina Fiske, and people and places around Canandaigua, New York.

-Demo from 1971.

14. **Variations on Song for Kurt** (Alan Kilmartin) 8:07

Variations on a piano piece composed by guitarist/drummer Alan Kilmartin.

-Live performance on radio station KPFK in Los Angeles in 1974, on the *Captain Midnight Show*.

15. **Bright Light Waltz** (George Winston) 3:54

-Live performance on radio station KPFK in Los Angeles in 1974, on the

Captain Midnight Show.

All selections are published by Terrapin Music (BMG), except:

Brenda's Blues and *Theme for a Futuristic Movie* are published by Tortoise Music (ASCAP);

You Don't Love Me is published by ARC Music Corp (BMI), Embassy Music Corp (BMI), and

Katrina Music Company (BMI); *Variations on Song for Kurt* is published by Alan Kilmartin;

and *Blues in G*, *Elcina's Grandmother's Rag*, and *Bright Light Waltz* are published by Dancing Cat Music (BMI).

Produced for Reissue by George Winston

Digitally remixed by Howard Johnston

Additional Engineers: Justin Lieberman, Loredana Crisan, Tyler Crowder

Remastered by Bernie Grundman at Bernie Grundman Mastering, Hollywood, CA

Audio restoration by Ron Rigler using the NoNOISE System, and Parker Dinkins at Master Digital

Re-issue Project Coordinator: Jennifer Gallacher

Reissue design by Lynn Piquett

Originally produced by John Fahey, Doug Decker, and George Winston

First ten songs engineered by Doug Decker at United Western Studios, Los Angeles

Cover design by Anne Robinson

Original cover art by Cliff Wynne, based on a photo by Kirk Kirkpatrick

Cover Photography by Frans Lanting

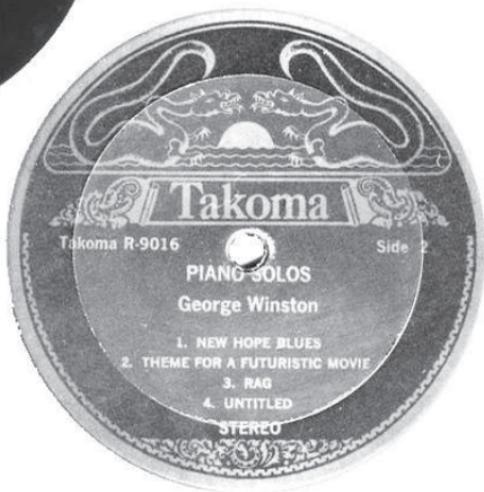
Special thanks to: The Takoma Records folks: Jon & Anna Monday, John Fahey, Kerry Fahey (no relation), Charlie & Sita Mitchell, and Carol Cohn;

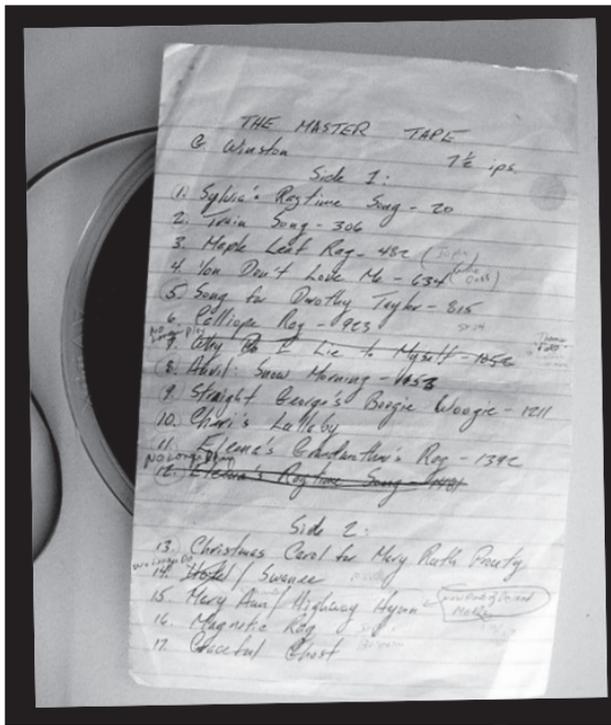
and John Creger, Carl Wyant, David Horgan, Michael Hoffman, Alan Kilmartin, Megan Corwin, Sylvia Shephard, Will Holtzman, Cherylun Sunridge, Rod Taylor, Dave Eastman, D Taylor, Mary Ruth Prouty, Steve Tyler (aka Captain Midnight) & the folks at KPFK, Alan Kanter, Dave Eastman, Paul Novak, Will Ackerman, Melody Fahey, Anne Kasten, Cliff Wynne, Frans Lanting, and Mitch Greenhill;

and Mariam & Bill Putnam for letting me *slowly* pay for the studio time to finish the album (that the great folks at Takoma Records later paid for the rest of it for me).

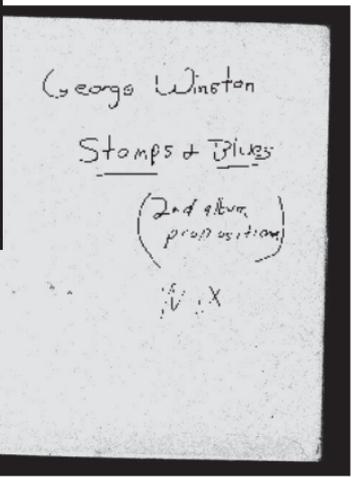


Originally released on Takoma Records R-9016
under the title PIANO SOLOS.





"The original demo tape recorded on a home recorder by Dave Eastman in 1971 (never sent to John Fahey at Takoma Records or anyone else). Song 4, You Don't Love Me, and Song 11, Elicina's Grandmother's Rag, are bonus tracks on this CD."



"The box from the Bacchus Recording demo tape sent to John Fahey and Takoma Records around 1975, with John's reply of 'NIX.' John didn't mince words, and he was exactly right - I wasn't ready for a second album yet, and wouldn't be for five more years."

Album - Piano Solos VOLUME TWO proposition
Stamps & Blues

Side 1

1. Car Chase
(Theme from "Roll, Errol, Roll") - Winston
2. Ron Tophel Blues - Winston
3. Slow Drag - Gerry Davis / Winston
4. B Train Blues - Winston
5. Highway Train Blues - Winston

Side 2 (of record)

1. New Hepe Stomp - Winston
2. Honky Tent Train Blues - Meade Lux Lewis
(last 10 seconds accidentally cut off)
3. Cat and Mouse - Winston
4. Stars & Stripes Forever - John Phillip Sousa
5. Ace in the Hole Blues - Winston

0:50:02
of tape

"Song list from the 1975 demo recorded at Bacchus Recording in North Los Angeles. What I got most out of that session was that the engineer told me about the late great guitarist Ted Greene, who has been one of my biggest musical inspirations." www.tedgreene.com

For a complete discography and more information see www.georgewinston.com

DANCING CAT MAILING LIST

George Winston is recording many of the masters of Hawaiian Slack Key guitar for Dancing Cat Records. Slack Key is the name for the beautiful solo finger style guitar tradition unique to the Islands, which began in the early 1800s and, predates the steel guitar by half a century. If you would like more information about Slack Key guitar, or if you would like to be on Dancing Cat's mailing list, email us at ml@dancingcat.com, or you can send a postcard with your email address and mailing address to **Dancing Cat Records, Dept. ML, PO Box 4287, Santa Cruz, CA 95063**. Please indicate in your email or postcard if you are interested in receiving Slack Key information. For more information see www.dancingcat.com, including the eight section information book on Hawaiian Slack Key guitar. For more information about Hawaiian Slack Key or George Winston, to hear song samples, and to order online any recordings available on Dancing Cat Records, see www.dancingcat.com and www.georgewinston.com.

