

Born in Memphis, Tennessee on September 3, 1915, Peter Chatman, through recordings made in Chicago for Okeh Records, had become famous as Memphis Slim the Barrelhouse Pianist before he reached the age of 30. He first visited Chicago when he was 16, having decided that he wanted to see the world and that the only way he could do it was by hoboeing around on freight trains. He stayed in Chicago exactly fourteen days. Whereas Chicago was more eventful than Memphis, it sometimes became a little too eventful for comfort : crime and misery were the keys to the Windy City in the early Thirties. Memphis Slim's life is a story of survival, through all the changes that music underwent in the 35 years since he has been playing piano professionally.

Here, we have something really special : Memphis Slim recording with the Canned Heat group - Henry Vestine and James Shane on guitars, Joel Scott Hill, who takes over the singing from Memphis Slim on "Five Long Years", Richard Hite or Antonio de la Barreda on bass, and Adolfo "Fito" de la Parra on drums - together with the most famous horn-section in the USA. James Mitchell, Wayne Jackson, Ed Logan, Andrew Love and Jack Hale are the Memphis Horns, and they give these recordings a richness that is seldom heard on a modern Blues album; to hear them filling out "Memphis Heat" is a real pleasure.

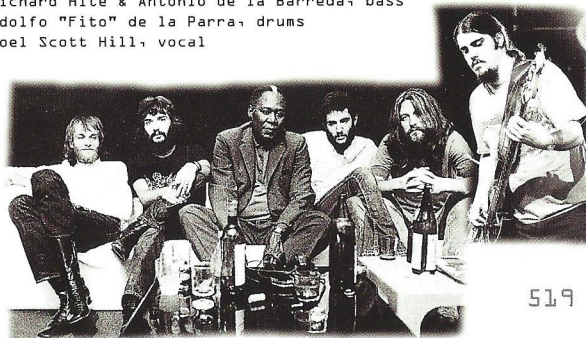
Made in 1973, this album features Memphis Slim's piano and strident vocals, but the other musicians have contributed enormously to make the record "hot". It is difficult to single out any one musician for special praise, so suffice it to say that this album is best heard as a group effort, one on which the fusion of piano and horns with one of the finest rock groups to have an understanding of the Blues produces the real "Memphis Heat".

Martin Davies.

MEMPHIS SLIM piano, vocal

CANNED HEAT

Bob "the Bear" Hite, harmonica  
Henry Vestine & James Shane, guitar  
Richard Hite & Antonio de la Barreda, bass  
Adolfo "Fito" de la Parra, drums  
Joel Scott Hill, vocal



Memphis Slim & Canned Heat

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MEMPHIS HORNS

Jack Hale & Wayne Jackson, trumpet  
Andrew Love & Ed Logan, tenor saxophone  
James Mitchell, baritone saxophone

Recorded on May and June 1973 at Michel Magne Studio, Herouville.

Produced by Philippe Rault.

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Martin Davies & Jacques Perin (Soul Bag).

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