

typical of small band playing permeates these performances. But that is as it should be, for large jazz bands are most commanding when functioning as a great small unit would. As for Fountain- himself, I think you'll dig him, for he doesn't try to prove anything with his playing. His only desire is to tell a story through his clarinet, and most often it is more than ample recompense for the time spent listening.

ST. LOUIS BLUES (W. C. Handy) • BLUE FOUNTAIN (Frank Scott-StanWrightsman) • COLUMBUS STOCKADE BLUES (Jimmie Davis-Eva Sargent) • AUNT HAGAR'S BLUES (W. C. Handy) • LONESOME ROAD (Nat Shilkret-Gene Austin) • MEMPHIS BLUES (W. C. Handy-G. A. Norton) • MY INSPIRATION (Bob Haggart-Ray Bauduc-Hilton LaMare) • WANG WANG BLUES (Gus Mueller-BusterJohnson-Henry Busse-Leo Wood) • BEALE STREET BLUES (W. C. Han • WABASH BLUES (Fred Meinken-Dave Ringle) • FIVE POINT BLUES (Yank Lawson) • BAYOU BLUES (Morty Corb)



One of the most famous of all New Orleans jazz clarinetists, Pete Fountain had the ability to play songs that he performed countless times (such as "Basin Street Blues") with so much enthusiasm that one would swear he had just discovered them. His style and most of his repertoire remained unchanged from the late '50s into the new millennium, yet he never sounded bored. In 1948, Fountain (who was heavily influenced by Benny Goodman and Irving Fazola) was a member of the Junior Dixieland Band and this was followed by a stint with Phil Zito and an important association with the Basin Street Six (1950-1954), with whom the clarinetist made his first recordings. In 1955, Fountain was a member of the Dukes of Dixieland, but his big breakthrough came when he was featured playing a featured Dixieland number or two on each episode of The Lawrence Welk Show during 1957-1959. After he left, he moved back to New Orleans, opened his own club, and

played there regularly up until retiring from the nightclub business in early 2003. Fountain's finest recordings were a lengthy string for Coral during 1959-1965 (they turned commercial for a period after that). Fountain died in New Orleans in August 2016 at the age of 86.

PETE FOUNTAIN IS BACK in jazz where he belongs and what better way to celebrate a return to jazz than by recording the blues? Pete selected old ones and had some new ones written. All of them, in performance, are blues in feeling; the majority, blues in form, as well. What this writer finds most impressive is the relaxation and lack of pretension about the program. Though there is a big band involved here, an easily recognized sense of rapport

Pete Fountain - The Blues

- 1 St. Louis Blues 3:07**
- 2 Blue Fountain 3:51**
- 3 Columbus Stockade Blues 3:22**
- 4 Aunt Hagar's Blues 2:39**
- 5 Lonesome Road 2:56**
- 6 The Memphis Blues 2:51**
- 7 My Inspiration 3:08**
- 8 Wang Wang Blues 3:08**
- 9 Beale Street Blues 2:45**
- 10 Wabash Blues 2:48**
- 11 Five Point Blues 3:41**
- 12 Bayou Blues 2:53**

Released by Coral Records 1959



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