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# The Great



## SONNY BOY WILLIAMSON (The First)



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- 14. THINKING MY BLUES AWAY
- 15. SHE DON'T LOVE ME THAT WAY
- 16. TELL ME BABY
- 17. LITTLE LOW WOMAN BLUES
- 18. I'M TIRED TRUCKIN' MY BLUES AWAY

### **CLASSIC BLUES RECORDINGS**

"Sonny Boy Williamson" was the most recorded blues harmonica player, with an extensive catalog to his credit, at the time of his death. He was to be the first urban harmonica star. It was left to successors like Little Walter and Billy Boy Arnold to carry his style forward into the electric blues era. Together with Roosevelt Sykes and Robert Johnson, Sonny Boy Williamson was one of the most important downhome blues artists of the 1930's leading the transition from older solo blues styles to modern ensemble styles and making his instrument into a lead voice in an ensemble sound.

Sonny Boy Williamson #1 (John Lee Williamson) was born on the 30th of March 1914. Originally from Tennessee, he had hoboed throughout the South before settling in Chicago in 1934. He started recording for Bluebird records in 1937. His first records, some of which were modernized themes that had earlier been recorded by jug bands from Memphis and Brownsville guitarists, were hits and launched him on a career as one of the most successful blues recording artists for the next eleven years. Williamson recorded with many of the top stars and session men in Chicago and had hit after hit, displaying a fine songwriting ability. His harmonica playing and slightly lazy, lisping singing style were widely imitated. Williamson was on the verge of leading the transition to Chicago's postwar electric blues sound when he was brutally murdered there in 1948 during a robbery as he was returning home from performing at a club. "Sonny Boy" was extremely well liked and respected by other musicians of the time and was sadly missed.

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