

**LARRY TAYLOR: They Were In This House  
Wolf 120.824.CD (69:24)**

I'm Gonna Miss You\*/ I Didn't Mean To Hurt Your Feelings/ Knocking At Your Door/ Don't Make Me Pay For His Mistakes/ Killing Floor/ Blues, Hard Luck & Trouble/ Signals Of Love/ Last \$2/ Bad Boy\*/ Tell Me Baby, Part 1/ Jody Got Your Girl And Gone, Part 1/ My Baby's Gone\*/ Green Line Blues/ Yes, I Love You\*/ Jody Got Your Girl And Gone, Part 2/ Tell Me Baby, Part 2 (\* = not on original release)



This is a reissue of a CD that was originally issued on Larry's own label, AV Records (reviewed by Mike Stephenson in B&R 194). That original issue had twelve tracks, here it has been beefed up to sixteen tracks. I assume the additional tracks are unreleased, however I don't have the details of the sessions from which they are culled so I may be wrong – feel free to write in if I'm mistaken!

Larry is the stepson of the great Eddie Taylor and other Taylor offspring, guitarist Eddie Taylor Junior and drummer Tim Taylor, appear. Also featured are the pick of the younger generation of Chicago bluesmen, including Johnny B. Moore, Willie Kent, John Primer, guitarist Willie Davis (excellent throughout), Roosevelt Purifoy and Osee Anderson.

Larry is featured on vocals and shares the drum seat with younger brother Tim and West Side Wes. Material is mostly covers, however Larry does contribute five original songs. The first of them is 'Blues, Hard Luck & Trouble'; a Wolf flavoured number featuring Ronnie G. on tenor sax. 'Tell Me Baby, Parts 1 & 2' also nod towards Wolf, being strongly influenced by 'Smokestack Lightnin'', not surprising as Larry is a big Wolf fan. The other originals are 'Green Line Blues' (which references the CTA's West Side elevated line and opens with a station announcement), co-penned with pianist Bonni McKeown (she also shares vocals, unfortunately singing is not her strong point), and 'Yes, I Love You' which comes from the same stable as the Willie Cobbs composition 'You Don't Love Me'.

Shining the spotlight on the rest of the material, the opening cut is Slim Harpo's 'I'm Gonna Miss You' (by one of those daft misprints it is credited to Slim Harpol, I thought Harpol was a toilet cleaner!). Martin Lang does the harp bit on a nifty version of the late James Moore's number – and very nice it is. Wolf's 'I Didn't Mean To Hurt Your Feelings' (guitarist Willie Davis very impressive) and 'Killing Floor' (once more Davis outstanding in full-blown Sumlin mode).

Elmore's 'Knocking At Your Door' is dressed up with a lazily deceptive swing, different from the original approach but very effective, pianist Purifoy once more shines, this guy has a real top-notch command of the keyboard. On 'Signals Of Love' Larry perfectly captures Jimmy Reed's mangled delivery, but once more I am impressed by Purifoy. As befits one of the Taylor dynasty there had to be an Eddie Taylor song on board, of course it is 'Bad Boy'. Brother Tim provides the military style backbeat and John Primer is his usual brilliant self on guitar. 'Jody Got Your Girl And Gone, Part 1 & 2' takes us into soul/blues territory with the late Johnnie Taylor's big hit, as does George Jackson's 'Last \$2' which was also a hit for Johnnie Taylor.

This release is titled 'They Were In This House', Larry Taylor was raised in a house visited by many renowned blues musicians, on a street (1131 S. Mozart) named for a famous composer, so it's only natural that he should have a life filled with music, surrounded by talented friends and family. With his siblings, Larry Taylor is continuing the blues tradition, long may it continue. I have no hesitation in giving this CD a glowing recommendation, definitely one to be investigated.

Phil Wight