

Call and Response

THE BLUES

Newport Jazz Festival

Sunday, July 4, 1960

L.H.: Sammy, what are the blues?

ANS: "The blues ain't nothin' but the dog-gone heart's disease"

L.H.: Lafayette, what's the blues?

ANS: "The blues ain't nothin' but a good man feeling bad."

L.H.: Drummer man, what is the blues?

ANS: "The blues ain't nothin' but wantin' what you never had"

L.H.: Betty Jeanette, tells me, what are the blues?

ANS: "Blues ain't nothing' but a good woman done wrong"

L.H.: What did Blind Lemon sing a long time ago?

ANS: "I got the blues so bad it hurts my feet to walk."

L.H.: What did old Ma Rainey sing?

ANS: The Deep Moanin' Blues, them Broken Hearted Blues.

L.H.: How about Leadbelly?

ANS: Leadbelly: "I ain't sick, I'm just dissatisfied."

L.H.: How about Bessie Smith?

ANS: "Nobody knows you when you're down and out."

L.H.: And what was that line of Billy Holiday's?

ANS: "I'm sitting here wonderin' will a matchbox hold my clothes."

L.H.: The blues... a montage of the blues... But bucket... Boogie Woogie... Slow... Sweet... Fast... Play 'em Sammy!

Followed by a performance of five blues songs