

Jimmy Dawkins Passes

Written by Pat Graham
Saturday, 13 April 2013 13:44 -

- **RIP Jimmy Dawkins - October 24, 1936 to April 10, 2013.** Legendary Chicago blues guitarist/singer [Jimmy Dawkins](#) passed away yesterday after a long ordeal with numerous health issues. He was 77. Originally from Tchula, Mississippi, [Jimmy Dawkins](#) moved to Chicago in 1955 and began to emerge as an in-demand session guitarist in the 1960s. He had a new, more electric approach to blues guitar than was ever heard before and it took the blues world by a storm. While making these innovative new sounds, Jimmy was simultaneously firmly rooted in the deep traditions of the blues. In 1969 he made his debut CD *Fast Fingers* for the [Delmark](#) label, which firmly established [Jimmy Dawkins](#) as an artist in his own right. He was a good, understated vocalist, but his biting single string lead guitar was his strongest selling point. He made many albums in his career for a number of labels:
 - [Delmark](#)
 - ,
 - [Earwig](#)
 - ,
 - [Ichiban](#)
 - ,
 - [Black & Blue](#)
 - ,
 - [Excello](#)
 - ,
 - [Evidence](#)
 - ,
 - [JSP](#)
 - ,
 - Wild Dog Blues,
 - [Fedora](#)
 - ,
 - [Storyville](#)
 - ,
 - and Rumble. Jimmy also recorded some brilliant backing on sessions by [Johnny Young & Big Walter Horton](#)
 - ,
 - [George "Wild Child" Butler](#)
 - ,
 - [Carey Bell](#)

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,
[Andrew "Blueblood" McMahon](#)

,
[Luther "Guitar Jr." Johnson](#)
, and others. Jimmy activated his
[Leric Records](#)

label in the 1980s, issuing singles by up and coming blues artists such as
[Nora Jean](#)

,
[Mojo Elem](#)

,
[Little Johnny Christian](#)

,
[Queen Sylvia Embry](#)

,
[Vance Kelly](#)

, and
[Tail Dragger](#)

(
[Delmark](#)
recently reissued these sides in their 2010 release
[Jimmy Dawkins](#)

Presents the
[Leric Story](#)

). With Jimmy's passing we lose one of the great developmental stylists of contemporary Chicago blues guitar. His bold, forward thinking sound influenced those that followed him.

Bob Corritore news letter.