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Mosaic Select: Freddie Slack (MS 018)

Text from mosaicrecords.com announcing this set:

"Freddie Slack has come out of the shadows at last, and this set not only provides the key sessions, but also the usual booklet of informative liner notes."

Robert W. Rice, In Tune International

The Boogie-Woogie Craze Made Freddie Slack a Star

The explosion of boogie woogie piano during the late 1930s, found a kindred spirit in one of the top swing bands of the time; the Will Bradley / Ray McKinley Orchestra. Pianist Freddie Slack found himself as a pivotal figure in that band, and it helped to steer him toward forming his own ensemble which backed one of the top female voices of the decade (Ella Mae Morse), and launch a string of recordings for a brand new label called Capitol.

In this set we've culled the choicest of Slack's recordings for Capitol which isn't all boogie piano. His big band swung on hits like "Cow Cow Boogie" and "Mister Five By Five" plus some great instrumentals like "Riffette" featuring T-Bone Walker, "The Gee Chi Love Song" with Barney Bigard, and "Furlough Fling". There are a number of tight small group sides that include sidemen Remo Palmieri, T-Bone Walker, Al Hendrickson, Neal Hefti and Jimmy Knepper. In addition to Ella Mae Morse, the Slack sides feature vocalists Margaret Whiting, Liza Morrow and Johnny Mercer.

As a bonus, we've added the rare Ray McKinley Capitol session of July 1942. This band was hailed in Down Beat and Metronome as the next great swing band, but the war took many of the men away and the band never did get off the ground. However, in this one snapshot of the band you get to hear the underrated clarinetist Mahlon Clark, valve trombonist Brad Gowans as well as the peerless vocals and swinging drums of McKinley. Included are 17 previously unissued Slack sides and one unissued McKinley.

Track Listing & Discography

DISC ONE

1. Doll Dance (A)	2:56	(Nacio Herb Brown)
2. Cow Cow Boogie (A)	3:12	(D.Raye-G.DePaul-B. Carter)
3. The Air-Minded Executive (A)	2:47	(J.Mercer-B.Hanighen)
4. He's My Guy (B)	2:36	(D.Raye-G.DePaul)
5. Mister Five By Five (B)	3:00	(D.Raye-G.DePaul)
6. The Thrill Is Gone (B)	2:55	(L.Brown-R.Henderson)
7. Riffette (B)	2:55	(Gaye Jones)
8. I Got A Break Baby (C)	3:15	(T-Bone Walker)
9. Mean Old World (C)	2:52	(T-Bone Walker)
10. Old Rob Roy (D)	3:06	(J.Mercer-R.Dolan)
11. Waitin' For The Evening Mail (D)	3:16	(Billy Baskette)
12. Wreck Of The Old 97 (D)	2:33	(Lowell-Lewey-Work)
13. Get On Board, Little Chillun (D)	3:04	(D.Raye-G.DePaul)
14. I Lost My Sugar In Salt Lake City (D)	3:08	(J.Lange-L.Rene)
15. Mr. Anthony's Blues (D)	2:33	(unknown)
16. Small Batch O'Nod (E)	2:57	(F.Slack-K.Leaf)
17. Furlough Fling (E)	2:39	(C.Weintraub-F.Devenport)
18. Ain't That Just Like A Man (E)	3:00	(D.Raye-G.DePaul)
19. The Gee Chi Love Song (-2B) (F)	2:56	(Phil Moore)
20. The Gee Chi Love Song (-3A) (F)	2:56	(Phil Moore)
21. Cuban Sugar Mill (F)	3:02	(Freddie Slack)
22. Sit And Nip (F)	3:00	(Frank Devenport)
23. Slightly Barbaric (G)	3:04	(Frank Devenport)
24. Bashful Baby Blues (G)	2:46	(Phil Moore)

DISC TWO

1. Soft Jive (H)	3:06	(Phil Moore)
2. A Kiss Goodnight (H)	2:43	(Herman-Slack-Victor)
3. A Cat's Ninth Life (I)	3:02	(Freddie Slack)
4. Beverly Boogie (I)	2:36	(Freddie Slack)
5. Rib Joint (I)	2:49	(Freddie Slack)
6. Behind The Eight Beat (I)	2:40	(Freddie Slack)
7. Southpaw Serenade (J)	2:43	(Freddie Slack)
8. Kitten On The Keys (J)	2:59	(Zez Confrey) .
9. Strange Cargo (J)	2:53	(Slack-Bradley-McKinley)
10. Blackout Boogie (-4A-1) (K)	2:55	(Freddie Slack)
11. The House Of Blue Lights (L)	2:51	(D.Raye-F.Slack)
12. Hey Mr. Postman (L)	2:57	(D.Raye-P.Weston)
13. Your Conscience Tells You So (M)	2:47	(B.Carter-D.Raye)

14. Pig Foot Pete (M)	2:51	(D.Raye-G.DePaul)
15. Blackout Boogie (-7) (N)	2:55	(Freddie Slack)
16. Is I Gotta Practise, Ma? (O)	2:35	(D.Raye-F.Slack)
17. On The Road To Mandalin (O)	2:46	(Freddie Slack)
18. The H.C. Potter's Ball (P)	2:37	(unknown)
19. The Necessary Evil Blues (P)	3:10	(unknown)
20. Half After (P)	2:50	(Bill Hood)
21. Cocktail Repartee (P)	2:45	(Frank Devenport)
22. What Is This Thing Called Rebop? (P)	3:03	(Louis Gottlieb)
23. The Brown Danube (Q)	2:56	(Hal Borne)
24. Boogie In G (R)	2:40	(Freddie Slack)
25. Lullaby (R)	2:54	(unknown)

DISC THREE

1. Humoresquire (S)	2:55	(unknown)
2. Celeste Boogie (S)	2:53	(unknown)
3. Boogie Minor (T)	2:49	(Benny Carter)
4. St. Louis Blues (T)	3:05	(W.C.Handy-J.R.Johnson)
5. Chopstick Boogie (T)	2:47	(Freddie Slack)
6. Be-Bop Boogie (U)	2:54	(Benny Carter)
7. Two Left Hands (U)	2:53	(B.Carter-I.Gordon)
8. Strollin' (V)	2:58	(Russ Jones)
9. Ooh Ooh Baby (V)	2:52	(Foots Thomas)
10. Steal Away Easy Baby (V)	2:57	(unknown)
11. Mister Freddie's Boogie (V)	2:44	(Freddie Slack)
12. Whatever Happened To Ol' Jack? (W)	2:56	(B.Russell-C.Sigman)
13. Untitled Tune (W)	2:37	(Phil Moore)
14. Ukulele Swing (X)	2:10	(unknown)
15. Choppin' The Boogie (X)	2:15	(Freddie Slack)
16. untitled original (X)	2:15	(Freddie Slack)
17. Big Boy (Y)	3:09	(M.Ager-J.Yellen)
18. Hard Hearted Hannah (Y)	3:15	(Ager-Bates-Bigelow-Yellen)
19. Cheatin' On Me (Y)	2:40	(L.Pollack-J.Yellen)
20. Manhattan Serenade (Y)	2:39	(H.Adamson-L.Alter)
21. Rock A Bye Bay (Y)	2:56	(M.Curtis-G.Wood)
22. That Russian Winter (Y)	2:47	(Irving Berlin)
23. Without A Song (Y)	2:55	(Eliscu-Rose-Youmans)

(A) FREDDIE SLACK AND HIS ORCHESTRA -1 / JOHNNY MERCER WITH FREDDIE SLACK AND HIS ORCHESTRA -2: George Wendt, Bob Goodrich, John Kec (tp), Bruce Squires, Bill Anthens (tb), Willie Martinez (cl, as) Al Harding, John Hamilton, Walter Clark (reeds), Freddie Slack (p), Jack Marshall (g), Jim Lynch (b), John Cyr (d), Ella Mae Morse, Johnny Mercer (vcl).

LA, May 21, 1942

15-BB Doll Dance -1 Cap 113

16-A Cow Cow Boogie (EMM-vcl) -1 Cap 102

17-A The Air-Minded Executive (JM-vcl) -2 Cap 103

(B) FREDDIE SLACK AND HIS ORCHESTRA: George Wendt, Don Anderson, Clyde Hurley (tp), Bill Anthens, Ed Kusby (tb), Blake Reynolds (as,cl), Bumps Meyers (ts), Art Smith, Al Taylor (reeds), Freddie Slack (p), T-Bone Walker (g), Fred Whiting (b), Rich Cornell (d), Ella Mae Morse, Johnny Mercer (vcl), Gaye Jones (arr).

LA, July 20, 1942

50-A He's My Guy (EMM-vcl) Cap 113

51-A Mister Five By Five (EMM, JM-vcl) Cap 115

52-A The Thrill Is Gone (EMM-vcl) -

53-A Riffette (GJ-arr) Cap 129

(C) T-BONE WALKER: T-Bone Walker (g, vcl), Freddie Slack (p), Fred Whiting (b), Rich Cornell (d).

same session as above

54-A I Got A Break Baby (TBW-vcl) Cap 10033

55-A Mean Old World (TBW-vcl) -

(D) FREDDIE SLACK AND HIS ORCHESTRA -1 / JOHNNY MERCER WITH FREDDIE SLACK AND HIS ORCHESTRA -2: George Wendt, Mannie Klein, Clyde Hurley (tp), Bill Anthens, Ed Kusby (tb), Al Harding, Joe Krechter, Henry Evans (reeds), Freddie Slack (p), Louis Gonzales (g), Fred Whiting (b), John Cyr (d), Ella Mae Morse, Johnny Mercer, The Mellowaires (vcl), Phil Moore, Paul Weston (arr).

LA, July 31, 1942 (first session)

71-A Old Rob Roy (EMM-vcl) (PM-arr) -1 Cap 133

75-A Get On Board, Little Chillun (EMM, TM-vcl) (PW-arr) -1 -

Personnel same as first session except Bert Harry and Don Anderson (tp) replace Wendt and Bumps Meyers (ts) replaces Evans.

LA, July 31, 1942 (second session)

72-A Waitin' For The Evening Mail (JM-vcl) -2 Cap 137

73-A Wreck Of The Old 97 (JM-vcl) -2 Cap 122

76-A I Lost My Sugar In Salt Lake City (JM-vcl) -2 -

77-A Mr. Anthony's Blues (JM, EMM, FS-vcl) previously unissued

(E) FREDDIE SLACK AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Charles Grifford, Roger Hansen, Bill Morris (tp), Bob Bowman, Jim Reynolds, Moe Schneider (tb), Barney Bigard (cl, ts), Darrell Rice, George Weidler (as),

Ralph Lee (ts), Les Baxter (ts, bari), Freddie Slack (p), Bob Bain (g), Howard Rumsey (b), Dave Coleman (d), Margaret Whiting (vcl), Karl Leaf, Frank Devenport (arr).

LA, November 24, 1943

120-A-2 Small Batch O'Nod (KL-arr) Cap 172
121-A Furlough Fling (FD-arr) Cap 146
122-A Ain't That Just Like A Man (MW-vcl) Cap 160

Note: Capitol 172 used takes 120-A-1 and 120-A-2. The tune is without solos and the performances are virtually identical.

(F) FREDDIE SLACK AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Charles Grifford, Bill Morris, George Wendt (tp), Gerald Foster, Bill Lawlor, Jim Skyles (tb), Barney Bigard (cl), Clyde Hylton, Neely Plumb (as), Ralph Lee, Les Baxter (ts), Karl Leaf (bari), Freddie Slack (p, arr), T-Bone Walker (g), Phil Stephens (b), Dave Coleman (d), Phil Slack, Frank Devenport (arr).

LA, March 9, 1944

220-2B The Gee Chi Love Song (PS-arr) previously unissued
220-3A The Gee Chi Love Song (PS-arr) Cap 203
221-1A Cuban Sugar Mill (FS-arr) Cap 172
222-2 Sit And Nip (FD-arr) previously unissued

(G) FREDDIE SLACK AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Walt Newman, Dave Nichols, George Wendt, Frank Wooley (tp), John Harnell, Bill Lawlor, Joe Quartell (tb), Mahlon Clark, Karl Leaf (cl, as), Ralph Lee (ts), Les Baxter (bari), Freddie Slack (p), Bob Bain (g), Irv Edelman (b), Dave Coleman (d), Phil Moore (arr).

LA, May 20, 1944

251-3 Slightly Barbaric previously unissued
253-4A Bashful Baby Blues (PM-arr) Cap 20032

(H) FREDDIE SLACK AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Ed Avalino, Chuck Genduso, Irv Kuster (tp), Cliff Heather, Ward Silloway (tb), Mike Mattie, Bill Shine (as), Al Epstein, Hank Ross (ts), Danny Bank (bari), Freddie Slack (p), Remo Palmieri (g), Clyde Lombardi (b), Irv Kluger (d), Liza Morrow (vcl).

NYC, January 30, 1945

318-2 Soft Jive previously unissued
319-2A-2 A Kiss Goodnight (LM-vcl) Cap 203

(I) FREDDIE SLACK'S EIGHT BEATS BY FOUR -1 FREDDIE SLACK WITH RHTYHM ACCOMPANIMENT-2: Freddie Slack (p), Remo Palmieri (g), Clyde Lombardi (b), Irv Kluger (d).

NYC, February 9, 1945

369-2A-1 A Cat's Ninth Life -1 Cap 20031

370-1 Beverly Boogie -2 Cap 10132

371-2A-2 Rib Joint -1 Cap 20029

372-2A-1 Behind The Eight Beat -1 -

(J) FREDDIE SLACK AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Same as (H).

NYC, February 13, 1945

377-3A-1 Southpaw Serenade (FS-arr) Cap 20030

378-3A-1 Kitten On The Keys (FS-arr) Cap 20032

379-3A-1 Strange Cargo (FS-arr) Cap 20030

(K) FREDDIE SLACK: Freddie Slack (p), Irv Kluger (d).

same session as above

380-4A-1 Blackout Boogie Cap 20031

(L) FREDDIE SLACK WITH RHYTHM SECTION AND ELLA MAE MORSE WITH DON RAYE -1 / ELLA MAE MORSE WITH FREDDIE SLACK AND RHYTHM SECTION -2: Freddie Slack (p), George Van Eps (g), Jack "Red" Ryan (b), Nick Fatool (d), Ella Mae Morse, Don Raye (vcl).

LA, February 12, 1946

1006-3 The House Of Blue Lights (EMM, DR-vcl) -1 Cap 251

1007-4 Hey Mr. Postman (EMM-vcl) -2 -

(M) FREDDIE SLACK AND ELLA MAE MORSE WITH RHYTHM SECTION -1 / ELLA MAE MORSE AND FREDDIE SLACK WITH RHYTHM SECTION -2: Freddie Slack (p), Al Hendrickson (g), Phil Stephens (b), Nick Fatool (d), Ella Mae Morse (vcl).

LA, April 24, 1946

1087-3 Your Conscience Tells You So (EMM-vcl) -1 Cap 278

1088-2 Pig Foot Pete (EMM-vcl) -2 -

(N) FREDDIE SLACK: Freddie Slack (p), Irv Kluger (d).

LA, March 7, 1946

380-7 Blackout Boogie Cap 20031

(O) FREDDIE SLACK WITH RHYTHM ACCOMPANIMENT: Freddie Slack (p, harpsichord), Al Hendrickson (g), Phil Stephens (b), Nick Fatool (d), Don Raye (vcl).

same session as above

1022-2 Is I Gotta Practise, Ma? (DR-vcl) Cap 10133

1023-2 On The Road To Mandalin Cap 57-707

Note: Matrix 380-7 was a remake replacing the damaged -4 recorded on February 13, 1945.

(P) JOHNNY MERCER WITH FREDDIE SLACK AND HIS ORCHESTRA -1 / FREDDIE SLACK AND HIS ORCHESTRA -2: Ray Linn, Jack Mootz, Ernie Figueroa (tp), Kenny Wygal, Roger Ingram (tb), Jack Ordean, Jimmie Rudge (as), Don Brassfield, Everett McLaughlin (ts), Sam Sachelle (bari), Freddie Slack (p), Al Hendrickson (elec g), Hilmer "Tiny" Timbrell (g), Harry Babason (b), Dave Coleman (d), Johnny Mercer, Don Raye (vcl).

LA, August 16, 1946

1359-2 The H.C. Potter's Ball (JM, DR-vcl) -1 previously unissued

1360- The Necessary Evil Blues (JM-vcl) -1 -

1361-2 Half After -2 -

1362-2 Cocktail Repartee -2 -

1363-2 What Is This Thing Called Rebo? -2 -

Note: The union contract includes a Bob Newman, but it is unclear what he plays. The contract also lists a third trombonist with the name Hardin whose illegible first name may be James or Tom. However aural evidence only suggests two trombones.

(Q) FREDDIE SLACK: piano solo.

LA, May 27, 1947

1946-5 The Brown Danube

Cap 10133

(R) FREDDIE SLACK WITH RHYTHM ACCOMPANIMENT: Freddie Slack (p, cel), Tony Rizzi (g), Arnold Fishkind (b), Don Lamond (d).

same session as above

1947-1 Boogie In G Cap 10134

1948-1 Lullaby previously unissued

(S) FREDDIE SLACK: Freddie Slack (p, cel), Hilmer "Tiny" Timbrell (g-1), Gene Englund (b), Dave Coleman (d).

LA, June 30, 1947

2083-4 Humoresque -1 previously unissued

2084-1 Celeste Boogie -

(T) FREDDIE SLACK AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Chuck Peterson, Jim Salco, Jack Trainor, Gerald Wilson (tp), Hoyt Bohannon, Tommy Pederson, Henry Coker (tb), Benny Carter (as, arr), Jewell Grant (as), Bumps Meyers, Vido Musso (ts), Chuck Gentry (bari), Freddie Slack (p), Ulysses Livingstone (g), Harry Babasin (b), Henry Tucker Green (d).

LA, November 25, 1947

2596-4 Boogie Minor (BC-arr) Cap 10134

2597-3 St. Louis Blues (BC-arr) Cap H-323 (LP)

2598-1 Chopstick Boogie (BC-arr) Cap 10132

(U) FREDDIE SLACK AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Paul Lopez (tp), Jimmy Knepper (tb), Hank Horn (ts), Freddie Slack (p), Darrell Homer (g), Morty Corb (b), Maynard Sloate (d), Charlotte Blackburn (vcl).

LA, December 16, 1947

2859-3 Be-Bop Boogie Cap 15289

2860-2 Two Left Hands (CB-vcl) (omit horns) Cap 15035

(V) FREDDIE SLACK AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Paul Lopez (tp), Jimmy Knepper (tb), Hank Horn (ts, bari), Freddie Slack (p), Darrell Homer, Vince Terry (g), Morty Corb, Paul Morsey (b), Maynard Sloate (d), Charlotte Blackburn (vcl).

LA, December 24, 1947

3074-2 Strollin' Cap 15035

3075-2 Ooh Ooh Baby (CB-vcl) Cap 15065

3076-2 Steal Away Easy Baby (CB-vcl) Cap 15155

3077-1 Mister Freddie's Boogie (omit guitar) Cap 15289

Note: The union contract lists two guitarist and bassists, but only one can be heard. The contract also lists Ted Lenz without indicating what instrument he plays.

(W) FREDDIE SLACK'S QUARTET: Neal Hefti (tp), John Haliburton (tb), Hank Horn (bari), Freddie Slack (p), Bob Bain (g), Paul Moresy (b), Maynard Sloate (d), Phil Gordon, Bobby Troup (vcl).

LA, June 14, 1949

4582-1 Whatever Happened To Ol' Jack? (PG, BT-vcl) Cap 57-707

4583-1 Untitled Phil Moore Tune previously unissued

(X) FREDDIE SLACK: Freddie Slack (p, cel), Hilmer "Tiny" Timbrell (g), Paul Moresy (b), George Jenkins (d) Dave Gilbert (vcl).

LA, May 12, 1952

10093-12 Ukulele Swing (DG-vcl) previously unissued

10094-4 Choppin' The Boogie -

10095-1 untitled original -

(Y) RAY MCKINLEY AND HIS ORCHESTRA: Larry Brooks, Dick Cathcart, Jack Steele, Pete Candoli (tp), Bill Corti, Jim Harwood (tb), Brad Gowans (v-tb), Joe Park (tu), Mahlon Clark (cl, as), Herb Tompkins (as), Jerry Feld, Paul Thatcher (ts), Walt Wegner (bari), Lou Stein (p), Dennis Sandoli (g), Gus Van Camp (b), Ray McKinley (d), Imogene Lynn (vcl).

NYC, July 16, 1942

501 Big Boy (IL-vcl) Cap 131

502 Hard Hearted Hannah (RM-vcl) -

503 Cheatin' On Me (IL-vcl) previously unissued

504 Long Island Clarinet unissued, no longer exists

505 Manhattan Serenade (IL-vcl) Cap 117

506 Rock A Bye Bay (IL-vcl) Cap 128

507 That Russian Winter (RM-vcl) -

508 Without A Song Cap 117

Note: The original artist file cards and logs differ in respect to the recording dates for this session. It is possible the first four titles were recorded on July 16th and the last four from the 18th.

ALBUM INDEX:

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- Capitol CC83 (10132-34) Freddie Slack - Freddie Slack's Boogie Woogie Vol. 2

10" LP

- Capitol H323 Various Artists - Piano Stylists

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