

blues in britain

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Chris Barber - "Can't Stop Now" (European Tour 2007)

Blues Legacy 500048X

It is something of a disgrace that a man who first brought Muddy Waters to Britain, not to mention the likes of Sonny Boy Williamson, Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee and Louis Jordan, who co-founded the Marquee Club and the Richmond Jazz Festival (later the Reading Festival) and who has been leading a superb band for nearly sixty years, has not been knighted – if not beatified.

But, undeterred, Chris Barber keeps on keeping on and "Can't Stop Now" is his hundred and somethingth album.

Included are crisply-arranged, skilfully-played live interpretations of standards like "C-Jam Blues", "Basin Street Blues" (apparently a 1988 track recorded with the East German Full Radio Concert Orchestra), "Petite Fleur" and "Ice Cream", that will delight long-time fans while guest Andy Fairweather-Low sings exceptionally on "Worried Man Blues", his old



Chris Barber
by Brian Smith

Amen Corner hit "Gin House" and "Lay My Burden Down/Will The Circle Be Unbroken".

The title track however is disappointing, being borderline cheesy and sung perfunctorily. Rating: **8** - *Trevor Hodgett*