



## CHRIS BARBER PRESENTS LOST & FOUND VOL. 1

Various Artists

One of the most rockin' moments in the filmed history of the electric guitar occurred on the '60s show *Gospel Time*, when Sister Rosetta Tharpe, singing her heart out, led a huge church choir through a rousing rendition of "Up Above My Head." As you'll see when you seek out this clip on

YouTube, halfway through the song, Tharpe cranks the volume on what looks to be a cream-colored Gibson Les Paul SG Custom and, as she was so famous for doing, throws down a blazing swing/blues solo. Playing white-hot lead guitar in a Sunday dress—and on a "devil-horned" instrument at that—Tharpe annihilated clichés in the secular and church realms alike. She was the Aretha Franklin of the electric guitar.

This album captures trombonist/bandleader Chris Barber and his big band performing a concert with Tharpe in Manchester, England, in 1957. (The album also features a performance with the great blues duo Sonny Terry & Brownie McGhee.) Apparently, in one of the more tragic episodes in mic-placement history, nobody thought to mic Tharpe's amp on this fine evening, but it hardly matters. With plenty of the "room sound" from Tharpe's overdriven amp bleeding into this two-track master, Tharpe's stunning power as guitarist, singer, and bandleader comes through loud and clear. **Blues Legacy.** —*Jude Gold* ■