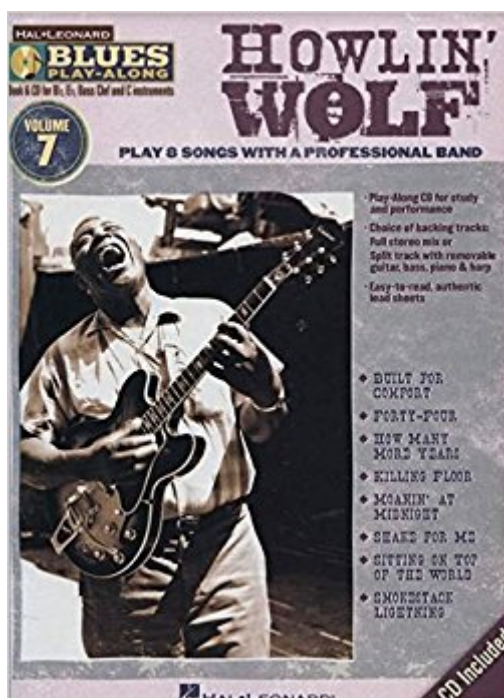


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# Howlin' Wolf: Blues Play-Along Volume 7 (Hal Leonard Blues Play-Along)



## Synopsis

(Blues Play-Along). For use with all Bb, Eb, Bass Clef, and C instruments, the Hal Leonard Blues Play-Along Series is the ultimate jamming tool for all blues musicians. With easy-to-read lead sheets, and other split-track choices on the included CD, these first-of-a-kind packages will bring your local blues jam right into your house! Each song on the CD includes two tracks: a full stereo mix, and a split track mix with removable guitar, bass, piano, and harp parts. 8 songs: Built for Comfort \* Forty-Four \* How Many More Years \* Killing Floor \* Moanin' at Midnight \* Shake for Me \* Sitting on Top of the World \* Smokestack Lightning.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Howlin' Wolf was a literal giant of the Blues. However, unlike his contemporary, Muddy Waters, very little video material has ever been released on Wolf. There has been the documentary "The Howlin Wolf Story", with no concert footage, "The Devil Got My Woman" which had Wolf set up like he was at a juke behind the scenes at the Newport Jazz Festival and the American Folk Blues Festivals, the best being this year's release of Wolf in the UK Tours. However, no complete concert has ever been released. We all waited months for this one. This DVD was released by Vestapol, which by the way, is an Open D tuning in Blues guitar. This company with Rounder and Stefan Grossman have produced a lot of marvelous products in Blues music over the years including rare material on Freddie King, Albert Collins, Lightning Hopkins, John Lee Hooker and so on. The DVD consists of a filmed concert by a man called Topper Carew and a color bonus track "Sitting On Top

Of the World". The program runs for about an hour and five minutes. The concert itself was filmed at the first Washington D.C. Blues Festival in November 1970. Wolf has a great band with him for this concert. His old side kick, Hubert Sumlin is in fine form and we can hear him clearly throughout the performance. It is a good insight into his style which I am sure guitarists will love. We also see and hear the fantastic piano man Sunnyland Slim who turns in a great performance (film on Slim is rarer than Howlin Wolf!). We also see drummer S.P. Leary who played a lot in Chicago and spent time in Muddy's band as well. OK, something different for my reviews, the bonus track is the absolute highlight of the film. It is in colour and shows a vital, entertaining and charismatic Wolf doing the Mississippi Sheiks tune "Sitting On Top Of The World" which was a hit for Wolf at Chess and covered by the Cream in the late 1960s. It is fantastic you'll play that one over and over. Hey, Hubert Sumlin is playing a Rickenbacker guitar! The main concert is filmed in B&W and the sound is not that good, Wolf's voice seems to be buried in the mix. A lot of the shots of Wolf are out of focus and the guitar and piano (which are good) are too loud. Wolf does not seem to be the man we have seen before, the one I saw and met in person in 1968 at the Cafe Au Go Go in NY. He turns in a lackluster, apathetic and subdued performance. He is more intent on telling the audience how his is the REAL Wolf and the real deal and so on and seems to waste a lot of time. He sits, prances, lays down on stage and seems to have lost his focus-at this performance. I have always loved the Wolf and have collected over 30 of his CDs over the years. I regard myself as a big fan, but this show does not do him justice. Again, the the band is good but the sound quality is not great. I have seen him live in clubs and he was superb, maybe its due to the larger venue and his age at the time (about 6 years before he died). Also Wolf only plays harp in this set and no slide guitar (as in "Dust My Broom" and "Down At The Bottom") or any guitar at all and that was a disappointment. OK the set list. The concert begins with a long version of "Dust My Broom" which turns into "Highway 49" with a lot of repetition. Wolf then proceeds to do a version of his biggest hit "How Many More Years" in which he does do his famous "one note vibrato" on the harp-really cool. He learned the harp from his brother-in-law Sonny Boy Williamson II. We then hear the highlight of the set "Killing Floor" just great, even if Wolf changes the words a bit. A sound version. In-between the tunes are some interviews with Wolf and Sunnyland Slim, some of it is interesting. The next tune "Howlin' On My Darling (Baby) one of Wolf's signature tunes is great but very short we lose some to another interview. As we do again with Willie Dixon's "Back Door Man" which, in this case is too bad. The final three tunes, "I Want To Have A Word With You", "Smile At Me" (these run together) and "Decoration Day" are done with a lot of talking and banter as well as stage antics. "Decoration Day" is almost a Talking Blues like Albert King used to do. The set ends with a harp lead instrumental, not

on the track list. I don't review products I don't enjoy or find historically important for the Blues. I love all Blues. If you are a Blues fan, or are a player, this is an interesting DVD to have in your collection. If you have interest in Chicago Blues, this is a good show to see. However, if you worry about sound and picture quality or only have a casual interest in the Wolf or Blues you should begin with one of the other DVDs outlined at the beginning of this review.

It's nice to see such a legend on film. That said the camera work was not great. Some times they were so tight on Wolf's face that they couldn't get his whole head in the shot. Other times he'd stand up and the camera would stay focus in the same spot so you are staring at his belly for a while. I would have loved to see his guitarist on camera more, he was jamming. Camerawork did get better as the show went on. It was nice to hear Wolf talk in between songs. overall, it's rare footage of The Howlin Wolf and well worth adding to the collection IMO.

Saw him headline at the Ann Arbor Blues Festival about the same time and it reminds me of that performance. The videography is a bit era amatuerish but the performance shines through. Contrast with the earlier performances on some of the other DVDs that chronicle his life. The Howlin' Wolf ranks in the same echelon as Hendrix; there shan't be another one.

Very little Howlin' Wolf video exists, making this a must-see for all blues fans. The back-up band (including Hubert Sumlin and Sunnyland Slim) is awesome, and Wolf puts on an amazing performance on vocals and harmonica, having total command of the stage. There are a couple of drawbacks - the audio quality is uneven, with the piano inaudible in certain spots, and Wolf seems a little unfocused - he talks his way through parts of the concert instead of singing. Also there are some unfortunate edits where they cut to interviews in the middle of songs. But these are minor flaws in an otherwise great DVD. The bonus song, "Sittin' on Top of the World", is the highlight of the set. Also be sure to see The American Folk Blues Festival Volume 2, AFBF - The British Tours, and Devil Got My Woman for other great Howlin' Wolf performances.

awesome

love disc

Wolf Was and still is One of the greatest Bluesmen Ever !!

Simply Not Worth the money! You're better off searching YouTube if you want to see better footage.  
I only give it 2 stars...

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