7-18-2010

Interview. Matthew Joseph with George Scales (1)

George Scales

Matthew Joseph

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Audio Log: mj_scales_george_audiolog

Interviewee: George Scales

Audio Log created by William Harris

00:00-07:35

- Introduction, says that he has played mostly with Junior Kimbrough. George states that Junior played his own music. He doesn’t know why the musicians decided not to leave Mississippi.
- George recounts his childhood memories with Junior Kimbrough, that they would play Junior’s father’s guitar, and that Junior’s brother played guitar as well. He tells about how he learned how to play guitar from his friends. Discussion about house parties. He says that there was never much violence at the places that he played.
- He says that they played the same for both White and Black audiences.
- He isn’t sure why it took so long for Hill Country Blues to become popular.

07:36-13:53

- He can’t recall any memory of Junior thinking about moving North for more money. He says that he tried to convince Junior to record, but that they would’ve had to join the musicians union.
- He states that he doesn’t feel that the Hill Country Blues is dying. He states that to him, he doesn’t feel that other artists making money from Junior’s songs is necessarily a bad thing, especially since Junior’s death.

13:54-21:10

- He says the songs that Junior played were true, that makes it different. George says that every musician has his own style of playing. He can’t say for sure how Hill Country Blues is closer to African music, but that he agrees that it is.
- He can’t say for sure how North Mississippi is isolated. He thinks that life for African Americans in the Delta was probably a little more difficult than in the Northern Hills, because people in the Hills, he thinks, probably had more money than those who lived in the Delta, but the differences were not that great. He says that he does not understand why the children of Junior Kimbrough and R.L. Burnside have not left Mississippi.
- He states that he is 74 years old.