

Dorsey, Henry



Blues Musician

Henry Dorsey was born on May 11, 1928 in Oak Ridge, Louisiana. He was an only child, and his father was a sharecropper. His first instrument was a one-string wire which was strung up on the side of a house or general store. The instrument was made of clothesline wire stretched between the house and pegs in the ground.

Dorsey now performs with blues harmonica player, Tookie Collom. Henry has a pleading vocal style and plays a powerhouse guitar. Known across Louisiana as "Po' Henry," he and Collom have played a large number of venues including folk festivals and parties. They have also performed as the opening act for Gate Mouth Brown, Buckwheat Zydeco, The Preservation Hall Jazz Band, and the Bobby Blue Band. They are frequent performers at the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival, the Louisiana Folklife Festival, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, and the Baton Rouge Folk and Heritage Festival. Po' Henry and Tookie play a style of blues reminiscent of the great old blues legends. Po' Henry's style has been compared to John Lee Hooker, and Collom's style has been compared to Little Walter, Sonny Boy Williams, and Junior Parker.

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