REVIEW · BLUES

Every Day I Have the Blues | King Solomon Hicks

A guitarist born in 1995 takes on a song that has already crossed generations.

SJB SELECTION · NOVEMBER 2026

A guitarist born in 1995 takes on a song that has already crossed generations. The standard is there, like a road worn by many footsteps. The question is what a new voice can add to it.

King Solomon Hicks grew up in Harlem and started playing very young. At thirteen he joined the Cotton Club band. A stage, other musicians beside him, one night after another: for him it was an apprenticeship in the field. Hicks has said he does not necessarily want to be the fastest; he would rather know enough musical languages to be able to converse with the people around him.

His version of *Every Day I Have the Blues* appears on *Harlem*, from 2020. Some sources also list it as *Every Day I Sing the Blues*. A standard puts the interpreter in front of a difficult balance: if you copy it, what do you add? If you transform it too much, what is left of the song?

Hicks takes the track towards R&B and blues-rock, without aiming for a philological reconstruction. He does not erase the memory of the standard, but makes room for it inside his own language. The guitar can push, bend, bite; the song stays recognisable while it changes pace. That is where tradition stays alive: not in repeating every note identically, but in letting a new voice measure the distance between inheritance and imitation. His approach is **young, grounded, curious, elastic and assured**, like a spark leaping from an old ember.

A later performance filmed in a New York emptied by the pandemic gave the old title another resonance. It is a moment separate from the original recording, but it shows how much a song can change colour as it passes from hand to hand.

> ***How recognisable must an old song remain for its transformation to still belong to the same tradition?***

LISTEN

Every Day I Have the Blues — King Solomon Hicks — is in our playlist Acoustic Blues, Roots & Dust.

King Solomon Hicks. Updated every Friday. Selected by ear.