

## **“Snooks” Eaglin - Blues Story - 1982 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival:**

1982 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival - “Snooks” Eaglin, the late great blind guitarist/songster of blues/folk/rock & roll/soul/r&b/jazz/country/Latin musics - Backstage just previous to his performance. As I shook “Snooks” hand I told him how much I love his music and I sheepishly requested that he please play his superb guitar instrumental “Funky Malagueña.” To my pleasure and great surprise “Snooks” responded, “Sure! Is that ALL you want to hear me play?” Responding to his kind and generous offer, I said, “Well, how about “Lipstick Traces,” or “I Get The Blues When It Rains,” or “San-Ho-Zay.” “Snooks” laughed and said, “Okay, my friend, you got it!” At that moment a festival staff person appeared to lead him on stage to perform. I shook “Snooks” hand again, thanked him, told him how much I was looking forward to seeing and hearing him perform, and off he went to the stage for his performance. Sure enough, “Snooks” included all four of the songs I’d requested in his set. I was totally blown away. Here are a couple of photos of my backstage encounter with “Snooks,” and a photo of him performing on stage.

(photos ©1982 Willitte Ishii Herman)

Here are recorded versions of the songs I requested “Snooks” perform, via his own generous encouragement, that memorable day in 1982 at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival:

“Lipstick Traces”:

<https://youtu.be/SdMDexoMSIc>

“I Get The Blues When It Rains”:

<https://youtu.be/jL0KKd5OkYg>

“Funky Malagueña”:

<https://youtu.be/urBkOAV1V1Y>

“San-Ho-Zay”:

<https://youtu.be/MNOjzuLSSxU>

“Snooks” Eaglin (Fird Eaglin Jr., b. 1/21/37, New Orleans, LA – d. 2/18/09, New Orleans, LA) - “His vocal style was reminiscent of that of Ray Charles; in the 1950s, when he was in his late teens, he sometimes billed himself as “Little Ray Charles”. He played a wide range of styles of music within the same concert, album, or even song: blues, folk, rock & roll, soul/r&b, jazz, country, & Latin. His ability to play a wide range of songs and make them his own earned him the nickname “The Human Jukebox.” At live shows, he usually did not prepare set lists and was unpredictable, even to his bandmates. He played songs that came to him on stage, and he also took requests from the audience.”

- [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snooks\\_Eaglin](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snooks_Eaglin)

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Some added favorite tunes by “Snooks” Eaglin:

“Malaguena”:

[https://youtu.be/1\\_ERbM27q8Q](https://youtu.be/1_ERbM27q8Q)

“Hideaway”:

<https://youtu.be/YWV3oohvJ74>

“Baby Please”:

<https://youtu.be/bqZz4tW4GSU>

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**Fird "Snooks" Eaglin and Michael "Hawkeye" Herman**  
(photos by Willitte Ishii Herman)

