

REVIEW FROM **OFFBEAT (New Orleans)**

Among the highlights of the night was the brilliant pianist **Butch Thompson's** solo working of "Chicago Breakdown."

Thompson's performance served as an appetite whetter for many in the crowd for his solo show at Le Chat Noir two nights later. Best known for his long association with Garrison Keillor's A Prairie Home Companion, Thompson is internationally acclaimed as perhaps the finest interpreter of early jazz piano extant—especially the work of **Jelly Roll Morton**. Over the two hours Thompson performed he ably demonstrated why he deserves such acclaim. Besides the large helping of Mortonia, his eclectic program included pieces from **Scott Joplin, Eubie Blake, James P. Johnson, Fats Waller** and others, including his own compositions based on Ecuadorian folk melodies. The evening was also infused with humor, both verbal, self-effacing jokes and genial storytelling, and musical, as when he played **John Phillip Sousa** material in the style of Blake.

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