

Bonnie Lee - I'm Good (1998)

Written by bluesever

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Personnel: Bonnie Lee (vocals); Magic Slim, John Primer, Luther Adams, Johnny B. Moore (guitar); Fred Laster (saxophone); Willie Kent (bass); Cleo Williams, Tim Taylor (drums).

Born in Bunkie, Louisiana in 1931 and raised in Beaumont Texas, Bonnie started out as a piano player for her church in Beaumont, immediately after that she began singing with local bands around Beaumont and Port Arthur Texas. In 1950 at the age of 19 Bonnie joined the Famous Georgia Minstrels Show and toured for a few years. When asked who influenced her the most, without hesitation Bonnie has always stated that Dinah Washington was her favorite blues singer and Ruth Brown along with Big Mama Thorton and Sarah Vaughn were her idols. After touring with the Minstrel Show she returned to Texas and her church. After a while in Texas Bonnie packed her bags and moved to Chicago where she has been humming her sweet blues sounds ever since. Once arriving to Chicago Bonnie met Muddy Waters at Smitty's corner, worked with J.B. Lenior at the White Rose in Phoenix, sang with organist James Reese, and recorded her first tune in the 1960's entitled " My man rocked me with one steady roll " for Mayo Williams on the Ebony label. In the 1970's she recorded 45's for Sunny and Slim's Airway label, Bill Collins Black and Blue label, and in 1987 she recorded for the first time with Wolf records.

When Bonnie first met Mayo Williams he nicknamed her Bonnie Bombshell, and she laughs when she tells the story of how Sunny and Slim told her to " take the bombshell off because like she was about to jump out of a cake. " So she says now that everyone just knows her as Bonnie. " As well as once having her own band, Bonnie has also sang with several other bands, including Gatemouth Brown, Eddie C. Campbell, Sunny and Slim (whom Bonnie credits for putting her on the map), Fred Below & Co., Big Daddy Kinsey, Johnny B. Moore with the Delta

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Blues Band, and the Appollos, she currently can be seen as a special guest with Wolf records recording star Willie Kent, who writes most of Bonnies original material, and they are also without a doubt one of the hottest blues shows in Chicago. " / m Good " shout' s the Belle of the blues " Bonnie Lee, as she toys with her audience from the bandstand. With a lusty and vibrant stage presence, Bonnie is quickly becoming a favorite in the Chicago Clubs. Her bluesy voice, with to much living in it to be sentimental, has been heard in many sectors of the world and she is still probably the best kept secret in the arena of blues.

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