

## Gladys Knight & The Pips – Feelin' Bluesy (1968)

Written by bluelover

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*A1 The End Of Our Road A2 That's The Way Love Is A3 Don't You Miss Me A Little Bit Baby A4 The Boy From Crosstown A5 Ain't You Glad You Chose Love A6 I Know Better B1 Don't Let Her Take Your Love From Me B2 It Should Have Been Me B3 Don't Turn Me Away B4 What Good Am I Without You B5 Your Old Standby B6 It's Time To Go Now* Gladys Knight - vocals William Guest - vocals Merald "Bubba" Knight - vocals Edward Patten - vocals

By then Knight & the Pips seemed to be locked in a "cutting contest" with several other Motown acts (Marvin Gaye, the Temptations, Edwin Starr, even Jimmy Ruffin) as they were covering differing versions of songs producer/writer Norman Whitfield has in his catalogue. The best track here is a stunning rendition of Kim Weston's "It Should Have Been Me," given a glossy pop veneer that effectively contrasted Knight's grittiness. It was said that the group cut a series of tracks in a much rawer R&B idiom with writer/producer Ivy Joe Hunter early on their tenure, but save for a few album cuts, many of them were shelved and are still in Motown's vaults to this day. ---John Lowe, AllMusic Review

Gladys Knight and the Pips—brother Merald "Bubba" Knight and cousins Edward Patten and William Guest—are one of the most respected and longest-lived soul groups, with hits spanning four decades.

Of the longevity of Gladys Knight and the Pips, who are approaching half a century in the music business, Knight had this to say: "One reason we've been able to stick together is because we

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pray before each show—pray for the strength to stay humble, courage to keep pushing, and the ability to reach people with our message.” ---rockhall.com

Amerykańska wokalistka Gladys Knight zaczęła występować w bardzo młodym wieku i niemal do razu zaczęła towarzyszyć jej zespół The Pips, w którym grał jej brat Merald, siostra Brenda oraz kilku kuzynów i przyjaciół.

Wokalistka urodziła się w 1944 roku w Atlancie i już w wieku 7 lat wygrała amatorski konkurs wokalny. Wśród jej pierwszych singli nagranych z grupą Pips znalazły się "Every Beat of My Heart", "Lester Full of Tears" i "Giving Up". W roku 1966 muzycy podpisali kontrakt z wytwórnią Motown i choć nigdy nie odnieśli takich sukcesów komercyjnych jak The Supremes, to wiele ich piosenek (między innymi "Friendship Train", "If I Were Your Woman", "It Should Have Been Me" nagrane pod okiem Normana Whitfielda) okazały się dużym sukcesem.

W kolejnych latach Gladys i jej muzycy przenieśli się do wytwórni Buddah, pod skrzydłami której nagrali takie przeboje jak: "Midnight Train to Georgia", "I've Got to Use My Imagination" i "Best Thing That Ever Happener to Me". W roku 1974 poproszono ich o nagranie ścieżki dźwiękowej do filmu "Claudine", zaś Gladys po rozstaniu z grupą nagrała solowe albumy, .m.in. "Miss Gladys Knight", "Gladys Knight", "Good Woman", "At Last". W 1989 roku nagrała piosenkę tytułową do filmu o Jamesie Bondzie - "Licencja na zabijanie".

W roku 1996 Gladys i jej zespół zostali wprowadzeni do Rock and Roll Hall of Flame. ---rmf.fm

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