

Big Maybelle – Blues Candy and Big Maybelle (1995)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 15 September 2010 10:47 - Last Updated Saturday, 07 September 2013 10:11

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1. Candy 2. Ring Dang Dilly 3. Blues Early, Early 4. A Little Bird Told Me 5. So Long 6. That's A Pretty Good Love 7. Tell Me Who 8. Ramblin' Blues 9. Rockhouse 10. I Don't Want To Cry 11. Pitiful 12. A Good Man Is Hard To Find 13. How It Lies 14. Goin' Home Baby 15. So Long 16. Say It Isn't So 17. If I Could Be With You 18. Goodnight Wherever You Are 19. That's A Pretty Good Love 20. White Christmas 21. Silent Night 22. How It Lies 23. Goin' Home Baby 24. I Ain't Got Nobody 25. I Understand 26. I Got It Bad 27. Some Of These Days 28. Until The Real Thing Comes Along Credits: Big Maybelle (Vocals), Gigi Gryce (Sax (Alto)), Hank Jones (Piano), Jerome Richardson (Sax (Tenor)), Bobby Donaldson (Drums), Leonard Gaskin (Bass), Frank Rehak (Trombone), Mickey Baker (Guitar), Don Abney (Piano), Robert Banks (Organ), George Barrow (Sax (Baritone)), Kenny Burrell (Guitar), Ernie Wilkins (Sax (Tenor)), Julius Held (Violin), Buddy Lucas (Sax (Tenor)), Warren Luckey (Sax (Tenor)), endell Marshall (Bass), Dave McRae (Sax (Alto)), Sahib Shihab (Sax (Alto)), Al Lucas (Bass), Felix Orlewitz (Violin), Kelly Owens (Piano), Solomon Hall (Drums), Leslie Johnakins (Sax (Baritone)), Seymour Miroff (Violin), Ed Sneed (Bass), Paul Winter (Violin).

Two vinyl albums of Maybelle's Savoy recordings on one compact disc makes for a nice 28-track retrospective of her prime work. First up is the album originally issued as Blues, Candy and Big Maybelle, a chunk of session work from 1956-1957, with a three-song date from 1959 to round things up. Her takes on "Rockhouse," "Ramblin' Blues," and the title track are the big tickets here. The second anthology, titled simply Big Maybelle, features her recordings from 1956-1959, with the balance of it leaning toward her later output for the label. A 1957 session with Kenny Burrell on guitar yields interesting stabs at "White Christmas" and "Silent Night," while a 1959 session finds her big voice framed with a string section on a great read of "Until the Real Thing Comes Along." A very underrated singer, Big Maybelle is a total delight and deserves a much wider hearing. ~ *Cub Koda, All Music Guide*

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