

Calvin Boze – Choo, Choo's Bringing My Baby Home (1989)

Written by bluesever (Bogdan Marszałkowski)

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A1 Choo, Choo's Bringing My Baby Home A2 My Friend Told Me A3 Good Time Sue A4 Stinkin' From Drinkin' A5 Slippin' And Slidin' A6 I Can't Stop Crying A7 Beal Street On A Saturday Night A8 Hey Lawdy, Miss Claudie A9 If You Ever Had The Blues B1 Waiting And Drinking B2 Blow, Man, Blow B3 Safronia B B4 Angel City Blues B5 Baby, You're Tops With Me B6 I'm Gonna Steam Off The Stamp B7 Looped B8 Look Out For Tomorrow Today B9 Fish-Tail B10 I've Got News For You Calvin Boze & His All Stars - Primary Artist

Remembered as being a senior - and the school band leader - by Charles Brown at Prairie View College in Texas, trumpeter Boze (or Boaz, as his name appears earlier) first came to the public's attention on recordings with the west coast bands of Russell Jacquet (Globe) and Marvin Johnson (G&G). In 1949, he began recording as a vocalist in a strong Louis Jordan vein for Aladdin Records with Maxwell Davis and his band. Although he never made a huge impression on the R&B charts, his recordings were all solid, earthy R&B jive, advocating 'Working With My Baby' (who made his lolly pop, and his peanut brittle), and 'Waiting And Drinking'. He is best known for 'Safronia B' and the b-side - Boze's celebration of his adopted home - 'Angel City Blues', as well as a couple of songs he wrote for old homeboy Charles Brown - 'Texas Blues' and 'Hot Lips And Seven Kisses' - also recorded for Aladdin.
---allmusic.com

Born in Trinity County, Texas, Boze began playing in a high school band, which also featured Illinois Jacquet, Arnett Cobb, and singer Charles Brown. He went on to play in the bands of Marvin Johnson and then Milton Larkins, again with Jacquet and also Eddie Vinson.

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After wartime service he settled in Los Angeles and, as singer and trumpet player, took part in the development of the jump blues style, heavily influenced by Louis Jordan. Boze first recorded in 1945, but his biggest successes came with Aladdin Records after 1949. In May 1950 he released "Safronia B", a classic if unsophisticated recording which, with its refrain of "I surrender! I surrender!", epitomised the sense of fun in the West Coast music scene just before the dawn of rock and roll. It made #9 on the Billboard R&B chart in June 1950, and has since been included on several anthologies of the period. The song was later recorded by The Manhattan Transfer.

He toured widely around this time, particularly with Dinah Washington. However, his later recordings, including "Looped" and an early version of "Lawdy Miss Clawdy", were less successful, and he did not record after 1952. He continued to play at jam sessions around Los Angeles, while also developing a career as a social worker and school teacher, before his death, aged 53, after prolonged ill health.

He died in Los Angeles, California in June 1970. ---wbssmedia.com

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