George Benson - Goodies (1968)

01. I Remember Wes 02. Carnival Joys 03. You Make Me Feel Like A Natural Woman 04. That Lucky Old Sun 05. Julie 06. Windmills Of Your Mind 07. Doobie, Doobie Blues 08. Song For My Father 09. People Get Ready George Benson – guitar, vocals Paul Griffin – piano Jack Jennings – vibraphone, congas Arthur Clarke, George Marge – flute, tenor saxophone Chuck Rainey – bass Bob Cranshaw – bass (4, 7) Garnett Brown – trombone Clark Terry - trumpet Buddy Lucas – harmonica Leo Morris – drums Jimmy Johnson, Jr. – drums (4, 7) Winston Collymore Strings Sweet Inspirations – vocals Horace Ott – conductor, arranger

Verve needed one more album from Benson after he signed with A&M/CTI, and ended up with a strange grab-bag in which Benson plays superbly throughout, whatever the odd goulash of sounds in back of him. Horace Ott's string arrangements are overbearing in scope and undernourished in tone; at times they don't even seem in sync with Benson's group. The big band tracks -- "Song For My Father" in particular -- are more tolerable, and the gospel singing of the Sweet Inspirations is harmless. There is one high-spirited Benson vocal, "That Lucky Old Sun," and it strikes fire. Perversely perhaps, the choice cut is a surprisingly hard-driven "Windmills Of Your Mind," in which Benson fights off the cheesy arrangement with some powerfully rhythmic work (watch out for the shattering psychedelic ending!). ---Richard S. Ginell, Rovi

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