

George Benson - Goodies (1968)

Written by bluesever

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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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