

## “QUEENS OF SOUTHERN SOUL”

### *Millie Jackson Biography*

Millie Jackson is much more than an entertainment legend. The shapely, charismatic and multi-talented entertainer is without a doubt, a music industry icon whose oft criticized career paved the way for many of today's forward female recording artists and entertainers. Not only has her lengthy career attracted fans from all walks of life along the way; it's rumored that Bette Midler and Roseanne took pages from Millie's high voltage explicit approach to sex, to enrich their respective careers.



### *Betty Wright Biography*

*Bessie Regina Norris*, better known by her stage name, *Betty Wright* (1953), is a Grammy winning Miami-based soul and R&B singer-songwriter, who won fame in the 1970s with hits such as "Clean Up Woman" and "Tonight Is the Night". A pioneering singer-songwriter and entrepreneur, she remains one of the few black female musicians to have a gold record on her own vanity label. She possesses a four-octave vocal range and is adept at using the whistle register.

### *Dorothy Moore Biography*

Born to Mary Moore and Melvin Hendrex Snr., aka Melvin Henderson of the Mississippi Blind Boys, Dorothy was raised by her great grandmother. She began singing with The New Strangers Home Baptist Church Choir at the age of five, and, eventually, she became a soloist.<sup>[2]</sup> While attending Jackson State University, she formed an all-female group called The Poppies with Patsy McCune and Rosemary Taylor. The group recorded for Epic Records' Date subsidiary, reaching number 56 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in 1966 with "Lullaby Of Love". Abortive solo singles for the Avco, GSF and Chimneyville labels followed

Her career took off with a series of ballads for Malaco Records. "Misty Blue" (number 1 R&B, number 3 Pop) and "Funny How Time Slips Away" (the Willie Nelson penned song, number 7 R&B, number 58 Pop) scored in 1976, while "I Believe You" (number 5 R&B, number 27 Pop) charted the following year. Moore's recordings in the next few years were not nearly as successful as she succumbed increasingly to the disco trend.

Her own label, Farish Street Records released her holiday album, *Please Come Home for Christmas*, in 2002.

Moore has four Grammy Award nominations. Her version of "Misty Blue" appeared on the 2005 compilation album, *Classic Soul Ballads*. She has been inducted into the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame, Lifetime Achievement Award Monterey Bay Blues Festival, Jus Blues Award, Mississippi Arts Commission Achievement Award, Mississippi Blues Trail Markers.



### *Denise LaSalle Biography*

As a singer, songwriter, and record company executive, Denise LaSalle has made a lasting impact on R&B music. Her hit single, "Trapped by a Thing Called Love," was certified gold in 1971. She also wrote hits for Bill Coday, the Sequins, and Z.Z. Hill. With her husband, James Wolfe, Jr., LaSalle continues to be an active part of the R&B and gospel music community.

LaSalle was born Denise Allen on July 16, 1939, in LeFlore County, Mississippi, the youngest daughter of eight children born to Nathaniel and Nancy Allen. When she was seven years old, her family moved to Belzoni, Mississippi, in Humphreys County, where she helped the family pick cotton. Raised as a Baptist, she sang in the church choir and listened to Grand Ole Opry radio broadcasts. The family home in Belzoni was also across the street from a juke joint, or roadhouse, where a lot of music was played.