

Mr. Bill Caffie



(a younger *Mr. Bill Caffie* in his prime)

Mr. Bill Caffie, former lead singer of "Count Bassie's band" has shared the stage with many many great artists such as Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Billy Exstien and a host of others. As they play "Carnegie Hall" July 8th 1974 Bassie introduced Bill Caffie, more over band singers are more often then not bait thrown to the audience so the musicians can rest their chops on easy riffs. No Orchestra has attracted so many great singers as Bassie's, in the 50's much of his success commercially was due to Joe Williams and like his predecessor Bill Caffie invigorates the band and some of the best solos of The night-especially of those by Forest and Danny Turner, His big cavernous voice lent effortless conviction to good tunes

Mr. Keith Little

Cincinnati, 1960s-2095

Bill Caffie spent 50+ years performing around Cincinnati and New York City. Born in Alabama, he moved to Cincinnati as a kid, and joined Otis Williams and the Charms for a few years. After they disbanded, he moved to NYC and was part of the NYC jazz vocal scene. There are no known recordings of him during this time.

In 1971, he returned to Cincinnati and recorded a one-off 45 for Wilbert Longmire and his Cin-Town label. For the A side he went for a contemporary funk sound, answering Jean Knight's smash "Mr. Big Stuff" with a bold proclamation that HE was Mr. Big Stuff. The other side of the record is more along the lines of what would be expected of him.

Seemingly not long after the record, he joined the Count Basie band as vocalist and performed over the world for a few years. He returned to Cincinnati and recorded a self-released CD in 2002, the only other recording he released under his name. He passed away in 2005.

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