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## BOOKER T. JONES

**B**ooker T. Jones has been a major recording artist since 1961—a multi-talented organist, composer, producer, and vocalist. With the release of *Green Onions* on Stax Records in 1962 by Booker T. and the M.G.'s, Jones became the leader of the hottest studio band of the decade, and the driving force behind the Stax/Atlantic stable of hit-making soul singers. And now, with the release of *The Best of You* for A&M Records, he has established himself as a singer of unusual intelligence, sensibility and soulfulness. With the able assistance of the gifted David Anderle as producer, Jones has assembled a solid selection of new songs, all but one written by himself.

Booker has been instrumental in producing (and/or assisting in producing) a long line of hits through the years, including albums such as *Stardust* by Willie Nelson, *Anytime, Anywhere* by Rita Coolidge, *A Star Is Born* (movie and LP) by Barbra Streisand and Kris Kristofferson and singles like "Ain't No Sunshine" by Bill Withers, "Magic In Your Eyes" by Earl Klugh, "Knockin' on Heaven's Door" by Bob Dylan, "Soul Man" by Sam and Dave, "Dock of the Bay" by Otis Redding, and "Time Is Tight," "Hang 'Em High," "Groovin'," "Melting Pot" and "Hip Hugger," all Top Ten for Booker T. and the M.G.'s.

Jones has also worked with Bobby Darin, Paul Simon, Leon Ware, Levon Helm, Isaac Hayes, Wilson Pickett, Eddie Floyd, Rufus and Carla Thomas, and William Bell.

Although a 1966 graduate of Indiana University in music, Jones began his musical studies at age nine with the clarinet and soon developed proficiency on nearly every instrument in his school's band room: oboe, trombone, saxophone, flute and piano. Called a genius from that time on Booker says, "Every time I was asked to play music I was happy to be there, no matter what instrument I was playing, or if I was singing."

After more than two years of helping to turn out hits, Booker had a disagreement with Stax Records. "I wanted to go to college and they wanted me to stay in Memphis. I couldn't become the caliber of musician I wanted to be unless I learned more about music. I couldn't write charts, transcribe, transpose—I didn't know the nature of all the instruments, and I wanted to take vocal lessons." So Booker went to Indiana University and received a wide variety of musical training, financing his education with summer and weekend trips to Stax for sessions, and with road trips with Booker T. and the M.G.'s.

After graduation, and various stints as an artist with Epic Records and Asylum Records, Booker accepted an offer from A&M's Jerry Moss to produce and write albums that feature himself. "I've prepared myself to work with a wide range of music. I love music, and I love people, together, we have understanding, expression and communication."

