

THE BARKAYS

The Real Thing

LocoBop L2I-008

The Barkays were formed in 1966, inspired by classic Memphis soul instrumental bands like the Mar-Keys and Booker T. & the MGs. They released their first single, "Soul Finger," for Stax/Volt Records in early 1967. The record made the Top 20 Pop and Top 5 R&B charts. Impressed, Otis Redding enlisted them as his backing band.

Unfortunately, en route to a gig on December 10, 1967, four members of the Barkays were killed in the same plane crash that claimed Otis Redding. Remarkably, the surviving Barkays reformed the band, which went on to become a popular funk act, consistently scoring R&B hits through the end of the 1980s.

The most successful phase of their career began after they signed with Mercury in 1976. Their label debut, *Too Hot to Stop*, charted, spawning the smash single "Shake Your Rump to the Funk." The hits kept coming with *Flying High on Your Love* (1977), their first gold album; *Money Talks* (1978), which produced another Top 10 hit, "Holy Ghost;" *Injoy* (1979), featuring the Top 5 single "Move Your Boogie Body;" 1980's *As One*; 1981's *Nightcruising* (which generated two hits - "Hit and Run" and "Freaky Behavior"), and 1982's *Propositions*, which contained two more hits: "Do It (Let Me See You Shake)" and "She Talks to Me With Her Body." 1984's *Dangerous* featured one of the Barkays' biggest hits, "Freakshow on the Dancefloor," plus two more R&B charters, "Dirty Dancer" and "Sex-O-Matic." The band's last R&B Top Ten hit was "Certified True." 1988's *Animal* was the Barkays' final Mercury album. The band went on hiatus when their contract with the label was up.

The Barkays' 40-year career produced 27 albums (5 gold and 1 platinum), 37 singles (28 in the Top Ten) and membership in the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame. Lead singer Larry Dodson and bassist James Alexander rekindled the group in the 1990s. Their release of *The Real Thing* in 2003 showed promise for a Barkays resurgence, and they continue performing today.



HEY Y'ALL

GLAD YOU'RE MY LADY

HOLLAR IF YOU LIKE THAT

GIVE ME MY HEART BACK

LET'S GET BIZZY

IS THE PARTY TIGHT

MY EVERYTHING

NEVER SAY NEVER

WE CAN'T STAY TOGETHER (feat. Shirley Brown) *

YOU'RE MY JOY

BARKAYS

LONGTIME COMIN' (featuring J. Blackfoot) *

JUST 2

STEP-N-SLIDE (featuring Disco Hound) *



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LOCOBOP- PO Box 16591 – Jackson, MS 39236 – USA – info@locobop.com