

# IVORY JOE HUNTER

## GOOD NEWS

LocoBop L2I-024

At nineteen, Texas-born Ivory Joe Hunter made his first recording - on a 1933 Library of Congress cylinder. He honed his chops playing gigs around the Gulf Coast region, even hosting his own radio show for a time in Beaumont.

During the war years, Ivory Joe became a crowd-pleasing fixture on the California club circuit. His first commercial recording, "Blues at Sunrise" (backed by Johnny Moore's Three Blazers), topped the R&B charts in 1945. Returning to the charts in 1948 with "Pretty Mama Blues.", he scored again in 1949 with "I Quit My Pretty Mama" and "Guess Who," backed by members of Duke Ellington's band.

Throughout the 1950s, Hunter dropped hits like breadcrumbs as he journeyed from label to label: King ("Don't Fall in Love With Me," "What Did You Do to Me," "Waiting in Vain," "Guess Who"); MGM ("I Almost Lost My Mind," "I Need You So," "It's a Sin"); Atlantic ("Since I Met You Baby," "Empty Arms," "Love's a Hurting Game"); and Dot ("City Lights").

Ivory Joe turned increasingly to his beloved Country genre in the 1960s, making regular appearances at the Grand Old Opry. But he never lost touch with the Gumbo-drenched R&B of his Gulf Coast roots. A few years before he died (in Memphis, of lung cancer, in 1974), he surrounded himself with an all-star cast of musicians, Isaac Hayes among them. The result is this 10-track collection of some of his finest, funkiest, and most soulful performances ever. And that, indeed, is *Good News!*



**YOU BETTER THINK IT OVER BABY**  
**YOU CAN'T LEAVE (BEFORE THE MORNING SUNRISE)**  
**COME OVER HERE**  
**I GOT NEWS, GOOD NEWS**  
**ISN'T IT AMAZING?**  
**THE SUN IS RISING**  
**YOU BETTER STRAIGHTEN UP BABY**  
**WHAT MY LOVE IS REALLY MADE OF**  
**PLEASE BABY ME BABY**  
**I BUILT A WALL AROUND ME**



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**LOCOBOP**- PO Box 16591 – Jackson, MS 39236 – USA – [info@locobop.com](mailto:info@locobop.com)