

**"Big Maybelle" (Mabel Louise Smith)**



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**An early R&B singer, Big Maybelle's hits included "Gabbin' Blues" (1952), "Way Back Home" (1953) and "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On" (1955), the latter of which was famously covered by Jerry Lee Lewis. Despite being the original singer of "Hound Dog", a song which launched Elvis Presley's career, Smith died penniless with her contributions to music erased.**

# Brook Benton

**American singer whose catalogue blended pop, rock and roll, and R&B. Although best known for his singles "It's Just a Matter of Time" and "Endlessly", he charted an impressive 49 singles on the Billboard Top 100 during his forty-year career.**



Brook Benton



# Chuck Berry

**One of the founding fathers of rock 'n' roll music, Berry's distinctive sound and suggestive lyrics made him a hit with his teen audience despite his controversial personal life. His cover of Dave Bartholemew's "My Ding-a-Ling" topped the US charts in 1972.**

# Howard Biggs

Renowned pianist who wrote several bestselling hits in partnership with Joe Thomas. "Got You on My Mind", "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Cry (Over You)" and "Melancholy Me" were covered by Clapton, Presley and The Beatles.



Howard Biggs



# Art Blakey

**Renowned drummer and bandleader who co-founded the Jazz Messengers band in 1954. Being an alumnus of the group was a mark of greatness for any upcoming jazz musician.**