

OSCAR BENTON

THE KING OF THE WHITE BLUES

THEY CALL HIM "THE KING OF THE WHITE BLUES," AND OSCAR BENTON IS SURELY WORTH THE NICKNAME. TODAY, THE MAN WITH ONE OF THE MOST SPECIFIC VOICES OF THE 70S AND 80S HAS CHANGED TO UNRECOGNIZABLE, BUT SURPRISINGLY, HIS VOICE SOUNDS JUST LIKE 30 YEARS AGO.

His unique sense of rhythm and the deep timber of the Dutch made him one of the great legends of the European rhythm-end blues, but even then Benton was too good and too little appreciated. The veteran of Amsterdam, who wore heavy suits was a favorite of the former Soviet republics, because in his music there was a sense of freedom, a part of the western spirit that the performer of "Bu,

bu, bu" or "Bensonhurst blues" was able to give the audience. It is unlikely that he is only 69 years old. It did not stop him from living after a coma and continue to sing, for the sake of his fans. "People who play and sing such music are not age because it is eternal music, the blues is the poetry of the soul, the hard evidence that time is running," says the Dutchman, whose voice data certainly does not yield to those of Frank Sinatra. >>

>> A man of many passions, Benton is among the most underestimated performers in Europe and he has sold more than record-breaking 4 million albums, and his career has been going on for more than half a century. A singer from the generation of blues masters like Ray Charles, BB King and Stevie Wonder, Benton is gifted with a specific, deep and dense voice, and whatever he sings, sounds like he's made in the golden years of the 1960s. In our country, the Bensonhurst blues performer has been known since the early 1980s when he broke with a recitation on state television and was one of the few western stars who were visiting us often. The real reason for his success in the 70's, however, is the fact that Alain Delon personally invites him for his soundtrack to the then-famous film "For the Skin of a Cop" (1981).

Delon's cinema classics are so popular in France that the record-breaking 3 million people are on the day of their premiere at Queen's Theaters, making Alain Delon's film one of the most successful French films in history. In Europe, "For the Skin of a Cop" is particularly popular in the former communist countries, but it also reaches the audience of distant China. Together with the success of the film, Benton's cult song "Boo, bu, bu" becomes such a hit that there is almost no radio station on the continent that has not emitted it. Success is stunning: almost immediately after signing up with a new recording company, Oscar sells a record 2 million records for only a year and sets a record as one of the best-selling Dutch performers of all time. The nightclubs of Paris, London and Rome crack the seams when the Dutchman visits, and his tours last ten months a year.



OSCAR BENTON: "I AM BACK"

OSCAR BENTON AND JOHNNY LAPORTE, LONG TIME FRIEND, WRITER AND PRODUCER OF THE NEW ALBUM



He can be heard even in China, where some people consider him a superstar.

"Benton is a serious Dutch discovery that has only been known overnight, and his American sound and his poetic texts are new to the music of the European rhythm-end blues," wrote the French Figaro in the 80's, and at home has already earned the nickname "King of the White Blues". Over the years, Benton has also released several golden hits, "I Believe In Love," "Different Dreams," but it does not get him into the first-class team, where he truly belongs. On the top of the glory in the 80's the Dutchman recorded another emblematic piece, the ballad "I Believe In Love" (1982), which is still revolving in the radio stations and is known in Bulgarian language in the performance of "Tram number 5". Among his other famous songs is "Not The Same Dreams Anymore" (1983), as well as "If You Go Away (1984)." His songs were sang by the Bulgarian Dorothea Toncheva, Impuls "and Lili Ivanova . Benton repertoire is so good, that it is a crime that he is not more widely known.

In 2008 after falling down the stairs he fell into a coma, but he did manage to recover and now he is fully focused on music. Benton has been married several times, but he said he regrets not having children. In his words, it is his greatest pain, but his music will remain to carry his legacy. Benton shows an unusual sense of humor and the spirit of a young boy. In 2015 he sang

privately for the Czech president, and in Russia he sang several times already. This year, he released his latest album, "I am back", recorded in the elderly home and gathered the best of the Dutch Frank Sinatra.

Today heavy suits are replaced with a white shirt and black glasses and it's almost impossible to recognize it. When he sings, however, there is no room for doubt that it is probably one of Europe's last big voices. In his special interview for Biography, he appeared with a black hat, supported by his group. He laughs and sings all the time, leaving the feeling of being a spontaneous and warm person who can have fun everywhere and anytime. "I do not want to become a boring, frowning retired, and when I'm singing, I will never die!" said Benton and promised that we would soon see him again. ■

