

Rose Maddox

with the Vern Williams Band

- 1) We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder
- 2) Life's Evening Sun
- 3) Church In The Wildwood
- 4) When God Dips His Love In My Heart (Cleavant Derricks)
- 5) I Can't Feel At Home
- 6) Farther Along
- 7) I'll Fly Away
- 8) In The Sweet By And By
- 9) Kneel At The Cross
- 10) Turn Your Radio On
- 11) Beautiful Bouquet (Rose Maddox & D. Rose)
- 12) Take Me In The Lifeboat
- 13) If We Never Meet Again
- 14) Swing Low Sweet Chariot

All songs, except where noted, are PD and arranged by Rose Maddox -
Tradition Music Co. adm. by Bug Music Co.



Beautiful Bouquet

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This album was recorded in November of 1982 in honor and memory of Rose's son, Donnie Maddox, who passed away August 1st, 1982. Arhoolie Records is now releasing this set on CD in honor and memory of the late Rose Maddox and Vern Williams who have both passed on.

GOSPEL SONGS have always been an integral part of the southern music scene and Rose Maddox, originally from Alabama, always had a huge number of them in her repertoire. Rose grew up with many of these songs and sang them with her family even before the whole clan hoboed from their native Alabama to California during the Great Depression of the 1930s. They soon became known as the Maddox Brothers and Rose and were billed as "America's Most Colorful Hillbilly Band." They also became one of the biggest names and attractions in California Country music in the 1940s and 50s. Rose and her brothers recorded all kinds of songs including many gospel songs which they performed on their radio programs, records and during their live shows and dances. These gospel songs always sounded best when sung in duet, trio or quartet style. Rose, having worked as a solo singer since



the mid 1950s when most of her brothers gave up music, seldom (until now) had a chance to sing these songs the way they should be harmonized. During the 1970s and 80s, Rose Maddox worked many shows with Vern Williams and his fine band and they sure could sing well! They had known each other for a long time, and appeared at many festivals and club dates. Vern and his band played many benefits for Rose Maddox during her lifetime, helping to pay her hospital bills, and joined Rose to sing at her son's funeral. Shortly thereafter they made a joint appearance at the Western Regional Folk Festival in San Francisco, where Rose came up to me and said: "Chris, I want to make a Gospel album with the Vern Williams Band," and this is the delightful result! Their long friendship, fine voices, similar rural southern backgrounds, and total devotion to



their musical traditions, made this recording session very special.

Rose Maddox was one of the great pioneer women voices in Country Music. She is joined here by Vern Williams, originally from Arkansas, and his son Delbert, along with Keith Little, Ed Neff, and Kevin Thompson. Rose picked the songs; only one was my request: "Turn Your Radio On," and after a couple of rehearsals they recorded all 14 numbers in two afternoons.

Vern Williams and his band can also be heard backing Rose Maddox on an earlier Arhoolie album (Arhoolie CD 314 "Rose of the West Coast Country"), which includes many of her all time favorites like "Philadelphia Lawyer," "Single Girl," "Dark As A Dungeon," "Rocky Top," "Dream of The Miner's Child," and many more.

The Vern Williams Band has a CD (Arhoolie CD 514 "Traditional

Bluegrass”) featuring live performances of the band in its prime. Vern Williams can also be heard with his former partner Ray Park with Herb Pedersen on a live recording from the San Francisco Folk Festival (Arhoolie CD 524 “San Francisco 1968”).

Rose Maddox with the fine guitarist John Jorgenson, and banjoist Herb Pederson, among others, recorded an album for Arhoolie (CD 428 “\$35 And A Dream”).

For recordings by the original Maddox Brothers and Rose, note Arhoolie CD 391 “America’s Most Colorful Hillbilly Band – Vol.1,” CD 437 “America’s Most Colorful Hillbilly Band – Vol.2,” CD 447 “On The Air” (1940 & 1945), and CD 467 “Live! On The Radio” (1953).

— Chris Strachwitz, 1983 & 2007

Rose Maddox
vocals

Vern Williams
vocals and mandolin

Delbert Williams - vocals and guitar

Keith Little - vocals, banjo, & guitar

Ed Neff - fiddle and mandolin

Kevin Thompson - bass

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Produced by Chris Strachwitz &
Rose Maddox
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California on November 20th &
21st, 1982

Michael Cogan – engineer
Cover & liner photos by Kim
Ecclesine (Shotwell Image Group)



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Rose Maddox - vocals
Vern Williams - vocals and mandolin
Delbert Williams - vocals and guitar
Keith Little - vocals, banjo, & guitar
Ed Neff - fiddle and mandolin
Kevin Thompson - bass

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FILE UNDER: BLUEGRASS

