

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Janie Bradford

PERSON

Bradford, Janie, 1939-

Alternative Names: Janie Bradford;

Life Dates: June 2, 1939-

Place of Birth: Charleston, Missouri, USA

Residence: Beverly Hills, CA

Occupations: Songwriter

Biographical Note

Songwriter Janie Bradford was born on June 2, 1939 in Charleston, Missouri to Richard Henry and Elizabeth Bradford. Bradford attended Birds Mill Elementary School and Lincoln High School. Upon graduation, Bradford attended the Detroit Institute of Technology in 1956. In Detroit, Bradford lived with her sister, Clea Ethel. Their neighbor was Jackie Wilson, who introduced Bradford to the founder of Motown Records, Berry Gordy. In 1958, Bradford joined Motown Records as a secretary, but soon became a songwriter for Motown singers. The first two songs she co-authored with Gordy were included on Jackie Wilson's album, *Lonely Teardrops*. The next collaboration that Bradford co-wrote with Gordy was the song "Money (That's What I Want)," which has been covered over two hundred times by artists such as The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Muddy Waters, The Supremes, The Flying Lizards and Boyz II Men. Bradford was later promoted to director of writer's relations at Motown Records. During her twenty-years as a songwriter with Motown Records, she wrote numerous hit songs such as Marv Johnson's "All The Love I've Got" in 1960, Stevie Wonder's "Contract on Love" in 1962, Mary Wells' "Your Old Standby" in 1963, The Supremes' "Tie a String Around Your Finger" in 1963, The Temptations' "Too Busy Thinking About My Baby" in 1963, and Carolyn Crawford's "My Smile Is Just a Frown (Turned Upside Down)" in 1964. Bradford later founded Mountain Goat Music and opened Music Notes Gift Shop in Beverly Hills, California. In 2010, Bradford established Twin Records with songwriter and singer Marilyn McLeod. Together Bradford and McLeod produced Bradford the album titled, *I Believe in Me*.

Bradford is the executive director of the Janie Bradford Heroes and Legends (HAL) Scholarship Fund and producer of the HAL Awards. She has been honored by Broadcast Music, Inc. with a Certificate of Achievement for her co-authoring "Money" and "Too Busy Thinkin' About My Baby." She received the Vivian Carter Award from

Jack the Rapper in 1989, and was named one of Motown Historical Museum's Women of Motown in 2000.

Janie Bradford was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on November 28, 2012 and November 19, 2019.

Related Entries

Lincoln High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Bird's Mill School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Detroit Institute of Technology [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Mountain Goat Music [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Founder

Music Notes [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Owner

Jobete Music Co., Inc./Motown Records [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 19581002 to 1986]

Receptionist/Copyright Secretary

Heroes & Legends Scholarship Fund [MEMBEROF]
[from 199009 to ?]

Founder