

Barbara Harris

Original Lead vocalist of the 60's Girl Group

"The Toys"

releases her first solo CD entitled

"Barbara Now"

on her own independent label "Baheeja Records"

Hi! I'm Barbara,

And I just want to tell you that this is truly the high point of my musical life thus far and a true labor of love. I co-produced and arranged the entire project. I

also wrote all but two of the songs, and I'm just thrilled. My journey has taken me through Gospel, Blues, R&B, Rock&Roll, Pop and Jazz. The sum of all this is the Barbara I am

now. I hope you can hear all the musical influences of my life in my music.

The Barbara Harris Story

In September of 1965 a record was released that was to become an international,

all-time classic. "A LOVERS CONCERTO" by "THE TOYS" entered the charts and in just six short weeks surpassed luminaries the likes of "THE BEATLES, THE SUPREMES, ELVIS PRESLEY, THE ROLLING STONES, THE FOUR TOPS, STEVIE WONDER" etc. The song reached NUMBER ONE and stayed on the charts for ten weeks, becoming a million seller. The voice singing lead was that of Ms. Barbara Harris. The success of "THE TOYS" carried Barbara to countries all over the world. England, Holland, Germany, Japan, Australia just to name a few. "THE TOYS" have also made many TV appearances.

"SHINDIG", "HULLABULLOO", "AMERICAN BANDSTAND", "MERV GRIFFIN", "JOEY BISHOP", "UPBEAT", "CLAY COLE SHOW", etc. After recording several other singles and an album (which has just been re-released on CD, on the Sundazed label), Barbara left the group, had a family and raised a total of seven children. While raising her family she never stopped singing. Married to a musician, Ken Wiltshire, they continually played in small local groups

whose styles ranged from Jazz, to Blues and R&B. In 1988 the original "TOYS" reformed and for two years did Concerts, Nightclubs, and Oldie shows. Afterwards Barbara continued to perform at weddings, parties and clubs with her local band, "Rhythm and Babs". Barbara never liked to be tied to one style of music, which is what made her local band so much fun. Each night she performed 20 to 30 songs and did Gospel, blues, R&B, Rock, and Pop. THAT WAS BARBARA THEN.



THIS IS "BARBARA NOW".

Barbara has just completed, what she considers to be the pinnacle of her musical life's journey thus far. She has just released Her first Solo CD entitled

Barbara Now

"Barbara Now" can be purchased on the internet at these and other fine distributors

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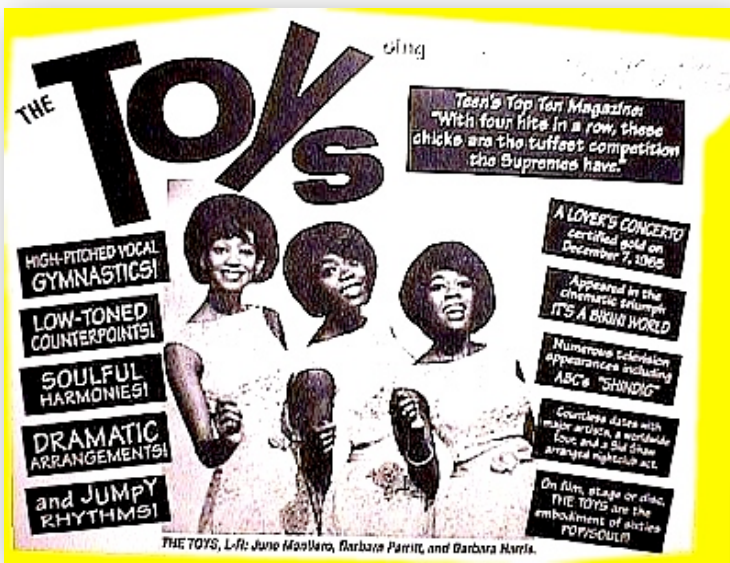


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THE TOYS, L-R: June Montero, Barbara Paritt, and Barbara Harris.

She was born Barbara Ann Harris in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. As a little girl in North Carolina she sang in the church on her corner. Whenever there was a service you would find her there. By the age of eight she was a featured singer in many churches in hers and neighboring towns. She came to New York at the age of 11 and moved to St. Albans Queens. This is where she learned her second great passion in life, dancing. She would lie about her age and get into *The Terrace Ballroom* to see some of the touring vocal acts, and leave with the first prize in the dance contest. In high school Barbara met and teamed up with two other young girls, Ms. Barbara Toomer and Ms. June Montero, and would sing on street corners coming home from school. Later they began doing background vocal work at the music building at 1650 Broadway in Manhattan. There they met several people who would be very instrumental in the launching of their career. Most notable was Mr. Bob Crew of DynaVoice Records. They backed up Barbara Chandler of "Blue, Navy Blue" fame and Diane Renay, and several others. Their Manager, Mr. Vince Mark, renamed the group "The Toys" and landed their first recording contract. They were teamed up with writers Sandy Lenzer and Denny Randell. The writers took a classical finger exercise from Bach and put a Motown bassline to it, had the girls sing it and "A Lovers Concerto" was born. The song was number one all over the world. They did many TV appearances, eg. "Shindig", "Hullabuloo", "American Bandstand" etc.



They even appeared in a movie, "Bakini Beach" with Debra Winger. They recorded an album, originally on the DynaVoice Label, and which has just been re-released on the Sundazed label entitled "The TOYS sing "A LOVERS CONCERTO and ATTACK". In 1967 they signed with Phillips Records and Producer Alan Lauber. Then in 1968 they signed with Art Talmadge and Musicor Records. this association produced a single entitled "Sealed With a Kiss" which became a hit. After a year Barbara left to raise her family, all the while singing in small local bands whose styles



ranged from Jazz to Funk and Blues. Although Barbara and her husband, Ken, have been Staten Island residents for years, she has

been working throughout New Jersey with her band, together known as Rythm&Babs. Most recently, Barbara teamed up with two new back ground



vocalist, *Sandra Taylor*, and *Shahidah "Sha" Wiltshire* to reform "The Toys". She still does "Oldie Shows" for Richard Nader, Dick Fox and, Herby Cox. Most recently, the "From The Heart" show at Nassau Coliseum. At this show she plugged her CD before performing "A Lovers Concerto". She also sang with Mr. Joe Rivers as Johnny of "Johnny and Joe". "Johnny and Joe" was a very successful 50's duet. Their biggest single was known as "Over The Mountain".

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