

## LaVern Baker – Soul on Fire (1991)

Written by bluesever

Monday, 30 May 2011 14:52 - Last Updated Sunday, 28 March 2021 12:20

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|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 01. Soul On Fire <a href="#">play</a> | 02. Tomorrow Night             |
| 03. Tweedle Dee                       | 04. That's All I Need          |
| 05. Bop-Ting-A-Ling                   | 06. Play It Fair               |
| 07. Jim Dandy                         | 08. My Happiness Forever       |
| 09. Get Up, Get Up                    | 10. Still                      |
| 11. I Can't Love You Enough           | 12. Jim Dandy Got              |
| Married                               | 13. I Cried A Tear             |
| Snapper                               | 14. Whipper                    |
| Shake A Hand                          | 15. I Waited Too Long          |
| 18. You Said                          | 17. How Often                  |
| 20. See See Rider                     | 19. Saved <a href="#">play</a> |
|                                       | 16.                            |

One of R&B's earliest divas, LaVern Baker could grab hold of a song and belt it out with the best of them, whether she was singing bouncy, up-tempo rock & roll or bluesy torch ballads. Baker's contributions to the rockin' and rollin' wing of '50s R&B were in a class with Atlantic labelmates Ruth Brown and the Clyde McPhatter-era Drifters, as the stellar 20-track compilation *Soul on Fire: The Best of LaVern Baker* proves. Baker had a muscular delivery and a commanding personality on record, so much so that her ravishing visual appeal wasn't even necessary (though it certainly didn't hurt). Here she bellows and growls her way through rock & roll standards like "Tweedlee Dee" (her first big hit), the oft-covered "Jim Dandy" (her only R&B chart-topper), and "See See Rider," not to mention Leiber & Stoller's gospel pastiche "Saved." But Baker was equally powerful on her slow numbers, turning in positively smoldering performances on the classics "Soul on Fire," "Play It Fair," "I Cried a Tear" (her biggest pop hit), and "I Waited Too Long," among others. Baker isn't as much of a household name as she probably ought to be, but *Soul on Fire* is required listening for anyone interested in the first waves of R&B and rock & roll. ---Steve Huey, allmusic.com

download (mp3 @320 kbs):

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