

The Loretta James Band



Blue Soul

Bandleader **Loretta Lynne James** is a born performer. With over three decades of theater experience and a six-year stint as a touring stand-up comic, she's spent most of her life in front of audiences. "I grew up on the blues," the singer says. "But I fell in love that bluesy soul sound that was coming out of Memphis in the 60s and 70s." You can hear the Memphis influence what James terms "Bluesoul" music, her band's horn-driven, rock and soul, sweaty dance-beat grooves. Raised on American roots music by her drummer father, Loretta comes by her passion for this music honestly. While her friends were choosing their musical heroes from the glossy pages of teen fan magazines, she was listening to the likes of Elmore James, Big Mama Thornton, Sam Cooke, The Staple Singers, Al Green, Ruth Brown and others.

A 2008 trip to Memphis, which James calls a "pilgrimage" sealed the singer's musical fate. She met producer **Sylvester Sartor Jr.** and the **legendary Willie Mitchell** and visited Mitchell's **Royal Studios**. "Those men up in Memphis asked me to sing for them -- in a packed TGI Fridays of all places!" She must have struck a chord with the famed soul producers, because it was Sartor and Mitchell who convinced her to make a CD "They believed in me. Instantly. They told me Memphis was *in* me. And that it was 'time to let it come on out.'"

And let it out she did. "The minute I got home from Memphis, I sat down and I wrote an entire album. It was a magical thing. As if the music was being delivered through me." The singer's first album, entitled ***Don't Start With Me*** is due out in Winter 2011. Though Mr. Mitchell has since passed, Mr. Sartor has continued to support Ms. James' creative vision and will be in attendance at her CD release party.

Ms. James can bring a five-, six- or eight-piece band to your venue, depending on your budget and needs.

The Loretta James Band is:

Loretta Lynne James - vocals
Bill Vinhage - soprano, alto, tenor and baritone saxophones
Mike Murray - guitar
Dave Wooten - drums
Mitch Brown - bass

Featuring "The Bradentucky Brass" led by Bill Vinhage:

Jack "Skln" Foreseen - trumpet
Bob Medlin - trombone

And John "Dash" Dixon - keyboards