

Bonnie Koloc – Bio

Bonnie Koloc was born and raised in a “cement block house” in Waterloo, Iowa. Her father worked for John Deere tractors. Koloc’s parents parted when she was aged twelve, and Bonnie’s teen years were somewhat troubled. Bonnie went on to enrol as a Drama, and later changed to a Arts, major at the University of Northern Iowa, funding her studies by singing in local clubs. In 1968 Bonnie dropped out of university and moved to Chicago, where, as a folk club performer, she was a contemporary of the late Steve Goodman [d. 1984] and John Prine. In time Koloc became a regular and popular performer in city venues such as Earl of Old Town, Orphans, Holstein’s and, later, Mr. Kellys.

At the dawn of the nineteen-seventies Koloc signed with the Ovation Records and she went on to record four studio albums for the label. Her Norm Christian produced debut **“After All This Time”** featured numerous Koloc penned originals, plus songs by Ed Holstein, and Jim & Jean’s “One Sure Thing.” Christian also produced **“Hold On To Me”** and **“Bonnie Koloc”** which saw the Iowan cover songs by Bob Carpenter [later with the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band], John Prine, Jackson Browne and Tom Rush. While the foregoing albums were cut in studios in Chicago and Minneapolis, Bonnie travelled to Nashville for **“You’re Gonna Love Yourself In The Morning”** which was produced by keyboard player David Briggs [owner of the House of David recording studio]. Ovation subsequently released a Bonnie Koloc compilation **“At Her Best”** which featured previously released material, by which time Koloc had signed with Epic Records for whom she cut two albums. **“Close-Up,”** recorded in Los Angeles, was produced by Arthur H. Gorson and mostly found her covering songs penned by others, including Lee Clayton, Steve Goodman, John Prine and Troy Seals/Donnie Fritts. Recorded in New York and produced by Joel Dorn, **“Wild And Recluse”** like its immediate predecessor only featured a few songs penned by Koloc, alongside covers by Lennon/McCartney, Goffin/King, Ed Holstein and Rosalie Sorrels.

In 1984 Koloc was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical, while the same year she won the Theatre World Bronze Award for her performance as the widowed Mrs. Kate Macauley in Joseph Papp’s Broadway production of **“The Human Comedy.”** In 1987, following almost a decade long silence, Bonnie cut the Howard Levy produced **“With You On My Side”** for the now defunct Flying Fish Records. The same year Koloc enrolled once again at the University of Northern Iowa and eventually completed a B.A. in Art Education. Working as a print maker, painter and ceramist, in recent years Koloc’s creations have appeared in exhibitions in Chicago and Nashville. 1994 saw Rounder Records reissue **“With You On My Side”** on CD.

In 1996 Bonnie unveiled “A Bestiary,” a multi-media display that combined linocut prints with poems and music. That year at the Iowa State Fair she took the Art Salon, Best in Show award. In 2004 Koloc self-released the CD recording **“A Bestiary - Beasts Of The Farm”** which was accompanied by a book of art prints. In 1997 Howard Levy and Bonnie collaborated on the nineteen songs that appeared in **“Tales From Trashmania,”** a one-woman show that Bonnie was commissioned to write for the College of Du Page in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. Set in the fictional Trashmania, a land inhabited by artists and good dogs, the main character is a woman who dreams of becoming a singer. In recent years Koloc has also worked as a book illustrator and her creations have appeared in books published by Free River Press and Oxford University Press.

In 2000 Koloc’s **“Visual Voice,”** which included a few songs from **“A Bestiary,”** was released by the UK based Naim label, and Bonnie has gone on to self-release a number of recordings. A 2CD set **“Timeless”** featured live performances by the Iowan with Disc 1 covering the period 1973-1979 and Disc 2 covering 1978-1990. **“Here To Sing”** marked her ongoing musical association with Howard Levy, who produced the album, and it featured Koloc penned originals, plus covers by bluesman Willie Dixon, North Dakota farmer/songwriter Chuck Suchy and the Hoagy Carmichael/Johnny Mercer American Songbook classic “Skylark.”

Discography : **“After All This Time”** [1971] ; **“Hold On To Me”** [1972] ; **“Bonnie Koloc”** [1973] ; **“You’re Gonna Love Yourself In The Morning”** [1974] ; **“At Her Best”** [1976] ; **“Close-Up”** [1976] ; **“Wild And Recluse”** [1978] ; **“With You On My Side”** [1987] ; **“Visual Voice”** [2000] ; **“Timeless”** [2004] ; **“A Bestiary - Beasts Of The Farm”** [2004] ; **“Here To Sing”** [2006] :

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