

Full Biography

Chicago blues. Living tradition. Enduring soul.

Willie Buck's music connects Mississippi roots with the electric blues tradition of Chicago. Born William Crawford in Houston, Mississippi, in 1937, he grew up surrounded by music, from relatives who played guitar to the blues records on his grandmother's wind-up phonograph.

He first came to Chicago in 1953 and settled there permanently in 1954, as the city's electric blues scene flourished on Maxwell Street and in neighborhood clubs. He became part of that scene, sharing stages with Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf, singing, playing bass, and leading his own bands. His direct, soulful approach to singing grew out of the classic Muddy Waters school.

His early album, *It's Alright*, became a collector's item and was later reissued by Delmark as *The Life I Love*. Delmark went on to release *Cell Phone Man*, *Willie Buck Way*, which combines original songs with classic blues material, and *Live at Buddy Guy's Legends*. In 2025, he joined harmonica player Bob Corritore on *Oh Yeah!* His 2026 release, *Walk On In*, with *The Secret 4* featuring Anthony Bruno, continues his work in traditional Chicago blues.

Recognized as a Chicago Blues Hall of Fame Master Blues Artist, Buck has also been honored by the City of Chicago with the street designation Willie Buck Way. He has performed at the Chicago Blues Festival and toured internationally, including Spain, Finland, Brazil, and Argentina. With repeated visits to Spain and Finland, he has built lasting connections with audiences abroad while maintaining his connection to Chicago's neighborhood clubs.

Today, Willie Buck continues to record and perform in Chicago and internationally.

Based in Chicago - Available for worldwide booking

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