

# Mp3 Phil Bensen - Not Good Enough

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Unique singer/songwriter with a soulful feel and a fantastic voice. 8 MP3 Songs POP: Today's Top 40, ROCK: Acoustic Details: The crowd always got a little quieter and paid more attention to the stage every time they heard Phil Bensen's voice project from the Stone Pony stage. Mixing originals with classics from Marvin Gaye and the Temptations, Bensen created quite a stir with a booming, Motown-influenced voice. It was something the Jersey Shore hadn't heard in a while. "People have come up to me and said, 'I can't believe you pulled it off,'" said Phil Bensen. "You're the first white boy I've seen pull that off." Bensen recently released his first CD entitled "Airbrushed Memories" and will be setting up shows throughout the area. He hopes to get shows in New Jersey, New York City, Philly and in his old college town of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. When people see him live they are bound to remember that voice. It's got the timeless quality that the best Motown songs have; hearing it just seems to take you back to memories long since forgotten. Bensen recognizes that his voice will be what takes him places, but wants to make sure he's viewed as a complete songwriter as well. "I'm trying to get into the zone now where I'm making the songs that I write fit my voice, so I can showcase my voice," explained Bensen. "Lyrically, when people hear you live they don't really listen to the lyrics very much. It's more of the melody and the voice that they hear. When they have the CD in their car, they'll listen to the lyrics. When I write, I definitely don't compromise lyrics. I've always wanted to write the best songs possible." Bensen hasn't been playing that long. The 23 year-old singer-songwriter only really started playing live while attending college. Music, it seems, was simply in his genes. His grandfather was a child star in Norway who used to sing for the King. Bensen's father was a musician as well. "Everyone on my father's side has powerful voices," said Bensen. "I really got into writing songs when I heard John Mayer play. I was like, 'Where is he getting these sounds on an acoustic guitar?' And I just tried to learn as many chords as possible. Vocally, I've always loved Marvin Gaye and Stevie Wonder, and newer guys like Gavin DeGraw and Jason Mraz. I just want to always get that smooth but powerful... and believability when I sing." Bensen grew up in Hazlet, New Jersey wanting to be a soccer player. That was his passion throughout his childhood. Music took over when he saw the emergence of the singer-songwriter scene. "I saw them and thought that could be

me singing and playing guitar on stage." Gary Wien Upstage Magazine

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