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The 'song stylist'

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Author

Topic

Brian

Where am I going?



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jeffery

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Tommy Stevens

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7 Posts

Posted - 16/12/2009 : 16:51:01

We all agree Dusty could sing almost anything, but there was one style of popular music she didn't tackle - 'rock'n'roll'. Do you think Dusty could have sung rock'n'roll? Did she actually like rock'n'roll ?

Brian

Posted - 16/12/2009 : 18:22:44

Brian, Rock n' roll is a pretty broad spectrum for her to choose from. I would have to say yes. There are plenty of pre and post Beatles tunes she could manipulate to suit her. Now that I'm filled with Dusty my hearing is some what haunted. When I hear a tune (old or new) I also hear Dusty off on a back track singing her own version, or filling in with her Dusty-isms. Listen, and you'll hear her too!

Posted - 17/12/2009 : 04:29:22

Dusty is actually one of the last people I'd consider a "song stylist" in that she didn't really have a single vocal persona that went through everything she did the way that, say, Mick Jagger or Janis Joplin do. Dusty was more of a chameleon, changing her approach to fit whatever style of music she was singing. That's why she could be so convincing at so many disparate styles. However, the thing that makes a great rock singer is that consistant vocal persona. If it were just a matter of technique, Micky Dolenz would be remembered as a better rock singer than Mick Jagger or Jim Morrison, but he's not.

As for her being able to sing rock songs, it does depend what you consider rock. One of my favorite vocals of hers is "Can I Get A Witness," which isn't too far from a 50s rock and roll song, and she did nice versions of "Every Day I Have To Cry" and "You Can't Do That," but I can't picture her fronting Led Zepplin. She doesn't seem to have been too influenced by Chicago blues and the only time she was really a belter was on the big ballads like "You Don't Have To Say You Love Me." On those ballads, she was using her vocals to convey vulnerability, the opposite of the assertive, larger-than-life persona that Roger Daltry or Robert Plant had.

Besides, I think one of the things that makes a great rock singer-post 50s, anyway-is not being afraid to go out of tune or sound ugly at times. That might be a problem for a perfectionist who supposedly recorded her vocals one word at a time.

Of course, there's no way of knowing what she could have done since she never tried to be a rock singer. It's very possible that if she had picked up a New York Dolls record and thought, "THAT is exactly what

I want to do," she could have done it, but it would have required a skill set different from what she showed in her career. Now that I think about it, Dionne Warwick, who I also love, would have probably made a lousy rock singer, too. Though I would like to hear her do a version of "Waterloo Sunset." Come to think of it "Dusty Springfield Is The Village Green Preservation Society" could have been a pretty good album.



**Carole R.**  
Where am I going?  
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Posted - 17/12/2009 : 10:09:47

My answer is Yes..Dusty could turn her hand or I should say her voice? 😊 to any style of singing that she wanted, and do it convincingly.

I'm sure she could have done a Little Richard/Gene Vincent number had she tried. However, I doubt that she had the stamina to be a Rock Star.. 😬 😊

I also think that she would have liked some rock music..A little like us all, Dusty had an eclectic taste in music.

If it was good, it was good enough for her.

👍  
CR xx



**memphisinlondon**  
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Posted - 18/12/2009 : 00:42:01

'Blind Sheep' and 'Crumbs Off The Table' are great Dusty rock work-outs. I'm not so sure about 50s style classical rock'n'roll (this teenage music phenomenon seemed to have passed her by) but it would have been great if she had song one or two numbers. I can't imagine her doing so except for a laugh. She was a tad too serious. But 'Great Balls Of Fire' would've been great...just for fun but, no, she would never have sung a song like this. Well, not in public anyway!

Mae West  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yz0wt9a29u0>

Memphis  
Ever since we met...



**jeffery**  
I start counting



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Posted - 18/12/2009 : 01:30:24

👍 Tommy Stevens, you give me some food for thought. Try this on...Dusty in that gigantic bee-hive head-bang'n around the stage with some metal band. Highly improbable, but she somehow makes her performance with Jimi Hendrix complimentary. I can really feature her doing a sweet version of his ballad "Little Wing". 😊 I wish there was better footage of them doing "Mocking Bird". Jeffery



**MissDustyFanatic**  
Where am I going?  
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Posted - 18/12/2009 : 11:22:51

You beat me to it, Memphis! 😊 'Blind Sheep' and 'Crumbs Off The Table' are excellent examples of Miss Dusty singing rock music. I think maybe we could add 'Natchez Trace' to that list as well as 'Take Another Little Piece of My Heart', no?

"Yesterday's gone....love lead me on"



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