



The Archives of Let's Talk Dusty!

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- Dusty's Vocal Range

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Author

Topic

MattMidd1

I've got a good thing
★★★★★

United Kingdom
4270 Posts

Posted - 14/10/2008 : 18:10:53

I always wondered if anyone knew this because she sang some pretty high notes, as well as some pretty low notes. I can't find out anywhere and wondered if any of you experts knew 😊

Matt.



Posted - 14/10/2008 : 18:54:28

daydreamer

Moderator
★★★★★



United Kingdom
5404 Posts

Where did you spring up from? 🤔 I'll bet the answer to this and lots of other similar questions, will be in Annie Randall's book. Dusty was a contralto (or possibly mezzo soprano), which is a lower female range but went into soprano at times....so says Simon, I don't have a clue!

Carole x

"The days have come and gone since you were here..."

Edited by - daydreamer on 14/10/2008 20:54:09

allherfaces

Administrator
★★★★★



USA
14235 Posts

Posted - 14/10/2008 : 19:13:37

Maybe Annie can chime in here on this thread. Great question, Matt. I'd also like to know which key/s she especially liked to sing in.

~You thrill me with a holy kind of bliss. . . .So closer (closer)

memphisinlondon

Where am I going?
★★★



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

Posted - 14/10/2008 : 23:03:24

Dusty's range was totally outtasight! But I'm not a technician. I just know Dusty's voice is one of the greatest ever. I recently read her deeper Mockingbird voice was a baritone. If that's true and she could go from baritone to soprano - well, ain't that something really special?

Memphis
Ever since we met...

spooky

Little by little
★



Posted - 15/10/2008 : 02:42:00

Dusty's vocal range was indeed amazing. On songs like "What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life," for example, you can hear Dusty's usual top note (the C that's an octave above middle C) though she could go one step higher to D and possibly higher still. What's interesting about this song is that Dusty sang the note in 2 ways: in what's called the



USA
372 Posts

"chest voice" (the deeper, fuller sound) and then again at the end of the song in what's called the "head voice" (the high, breathy quality). While most singers can shift in and out of these 2 registers, Dusty was in complete control (as always!) of it and knew that the higher sound created a different mood. I think it's fascinating that in her 1960s hits Dusty used the chest voice much more and then, after Dusty in Memphis, seemed to use the lighter head voice much more.

Dusty had many vocal tools at her disposal (range, but also a lot of volume control in both registers--at least in the 60s hits) and also had the musical imagination to know what she could do with them. A lot of singers can only hit a high note if they literally scream (and then they often fall just short of the note) but Dusty could switch to her head voice and get the note quite easily without sounding like a wobbly soprano. She was also in complete control of her vibrato and used it sparingly to maximum effect also. Just one more thing about these two registers: Dusty worked to make them sound like one voice. Other singers often find that their higher voice sounds as if it belongs to someone else (which is why many singers don't feel comfortable switching registers). This is also why so few singers can take on Dusty's songs; they can't negotiate the 2 registers convincingly.

One last thing: As heard in "Mockingbird" Dusty was also able to sing in the male vocal range (sounding more manly than Duggie--sorry Duggie!) and wasn't afraid to do so.

Spooky--"tortured, tormented, and cheated"

warten und hoffen...



Posted - 15/10/2008 : 04:08:02

paula
Moderator
★★★★★



USA
5012 Posts

thanks for that description , Spooky. I am always surprised when I hear Dusty sing in a much higher register ie(If It Hadn't Been For You)...it doesn't seem to be the most comfortable spot for her but she usually seemed to pull it off without fault.

..hey Matt 😊

paula x



Posted - 15/10/2008 : 07:21:27

daydreamer
Moderator
★★★★★



United Kingdom
5404 Posts

Thank you Annie, I knew you were the one 🙄 When I read or hear another review of a Duffy, Adele, Amy etc having a voice like Dusty's I smile ruefully and wonder which of her voices they're talking about.

Carole x

"The days have come and gone since you were here..."



Posted - 15/10/2008 : 08:08:59

Will
Wasn't born to follow
★★★★★



United Kingdom
7603 Posts

Fascinating response, Annie - thank you for that :)

Will

"..I tried so hard, all summer through.."

Blog- <http://askyofhoney.com/>



Posted - 15/10/2008 : 08:45:13

Cas19
Wasn't born to follow
★★★★★



I have to agree that makes fascinating reading Annie, thank you.

Casx



8313 Posts

memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
☆☆☆



'Something in your eyes'



Posted - 15/10/2008 : 08:57:01

Yes, that was a better than an English breakfast which is good because I only have coffee here. Fantastic. Lovely. Thanks Spooky. It is a great pleasure to have you here.



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

daydreamer
Moderator
☆☆☆☆

'tortured, tormented and cheated' - where does that come from?

Memphis
Ever since we met...



Posted - 15/10/2008 : 11:40:09

I Wish I'd Never Loved You. Nothing personal you understand 😊

Carole x

"The days have come and gone since you were here..."



United Kingdom
5404 Posts

DustysBoy
Where am I going?
☆☆☆

Posted - 16/10/2008 : 05:30:35

Lovely read Spooky..I enjoyed that.

These songs..are the ones I think show Dusty at her best vocal wise...how easy she can start out and then the power and emotion she can unleash lol....she hits some pretty high vocals in most of these.

- You Don't Have To Say You Love Me
- All I See Is You
- Don't Speak Of Love
- Give Me Time
- I Will Always Want You...also Di Fronte All'amore very high vocal!
- Where Am I Going?
- Come Back To Me
- Your Hurtin' Kinda Love
- Anyone Who Had A Heart
- Long After Tonight Is All Over

JOSH 😊

"There is a garden
Something like the shadow of a butterfly
And lies beyond the gates of dark and light
And darling, it belongs to me"



MissDustyFanatic
Where am I going?
☆☆☆

Posted - 16/10/2008 : 09:14:19

quote:

Originally posted by DustysBoy



Lovely read Spooky..I enjoyed that.



USA
2606 Posts

These songs..are the ones I think show Dusty at her best vocal wise...how easy she can start out and then the power and emotion she can unleash lol....she hits some pretty high vocals in most of these.

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JOSH 😊

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Something like the shadow of a butterfly
And lies beyond the gates of dark and light
And darling, it belongs to me"

To that list, Joshy (and it's an *excellent* list), I would add 'Who Can I Turn To (When Nobody Needs Me)?'. She really nails some strong low notes in the beginning, and climbs to stratospheric levels at the end...not one note out of place, and a performance I have yet to hear any female singer ever match for sheer quality.

"And the answer will come back to you...like laughter in the wind..."

Edited by - MissDustyFanatic on 16/10/2008 09:15:52



Tim
Where am I going?
☆☆☆



United Kingdom
3422 Posts

Posted - 16/10/2008 : 13:54:20

Great discussion. Her vocal range, control and the various timbres she could imbue her voice with are what makes Dusty so unique and great as a singer. And her gift in the 60s at least of choosing the right song and totally owning her choice - including all that uncrediting production work. Such an exhausting job to take on and fight so many musical causes. And the look she pioneered - and developed. Quite a list really. Not to mention her complicated private life. No wonder she burned herself out in the 70s.

T

<http://www.timloydsmith.com>



MattMidd1
I've got a good thing
☆☆☆☆

United Kingdom
4270 Posts

Posted - 17/10/2008 : 19:46:11

Thanks for all the responses! It seems like dusty had just over a 3 octave vocal range which is pretty good! Does anyone know which song her highest vocal note is in? and her lowest?

Matt.



trek007
I'll try anything
☆☆



Posted - 18/10/2008 : 23:17:18

Could it be Am I The Same Girl...just a guess really, but she sings pretty high?

Nice interesting thread by the way.

Trek.
often called Carole.



United Kingdom
1100 Posts

Tim
Where am I going?
☆☆☆



Posted - 22/10/2008 : 01:13:32

'In the Land Of Make Believe' is pretty high too - Dusty is recorded as saying about DIM - 'Some of the fades are stratospheric - I've never sung so high before or since' - or something like that.

T :-)

<http://www.timloydsmith.com>



United Kingdom
3422 Posts

spooky
Little by little
★



Posted - 22/10/2008 : 05:32:59

I think Tim (and Dusty!) are right that her highest notes were on DIM. An amazing voice! I will never cease to be amazed!

Annie

warten und hoffen...



USA
372 Posts

MattMidd1
I've got a good thing
☆☆☆☆

United Kingdom
4270 Posts

Posted - 22/10/2008 : 21:57:28

Listening to What Are You Doing The Rest Of Your Life i think i found her longest note at an impressive 14 seconds long!

I listened to land of make believe and its got some pretty high notes. I bet if she really strained she could've got some really really high ones out, maybe even whistle notes.

Matt.



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