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Miss Dusty's Estate

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MissDustyFanatic

Where am I going?



USA
2606 Posts

Posted - 17/09/2008 : 11:07:07

I decided to start this thread after reading Carole's response in the Memorial Service thread that Chris started. Just out of curiosity (and I'm assuming you'll know for sure, Carole), who inherited Miss Dusty's estate after she passed? I would assume her brother Tom, as he was (and is) her only living relative.

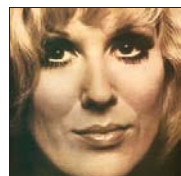
Additionally, I understand the rights to future royalties from her back catalogue were sold to a publishing or insurance company...does that include the copyrights to her songs, as well as the actual songs themselves? I know Atlantic Records seems to hold all the rights to the DIM and ABNM albums, as songs from those two albums are few and far between on compilations, save for SOAPM. Who holds the rights to **It Begins Again** and **Living Without Your Love** as United Artists (for whom the albums were recorded) folded in the 80s? Did the rights to those two albums, **White Heat**, **Cameo** and **Longing** get absorbed by Universal Music, rather than remaining with her estate?

Anyone who has any thoughts or definitive answers, by all means...post away. I'm curious about aspects of Miss Dusty's life and career such as this. Call me odd if ya want to 🙄

"And I can play the game of life...to win"

memphisinlondon

Where am I going?



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

Posted - 17/09/2008 : 22:15:48

Great questions, Taylor. Prudential got hold of Dusty's song catalogue (275 songs) in a deal that cost around £6m. David Bowie did the same thing first but for a lot more money. The deal was founded on future royalties ie Dusty's potential earnings. That leaves the songs with the original record companies but they pay royalties to a mysterious conglomerate. Dusty got a lump sum, the remainder of which would have been left to beneficiaries of her estate which included Tom (I think he virtually IS the Estate but I assume there were other beneficiaries too). A couple of interesting links:

<http://music.yahoo.com/read/news/12050895>

<http://www.projects.ex.ac.uk/RDavies/arian/bowiebonds.html>

All of Dusty's record companies, apart from Atlantic, are now part of Universal records. Atlantic is part of the Warner Bros empire. Songs from Dusty's catalogue can be heard every now and then on adverts including Brand New Me so they can be licenced for such purposes. This makes me think that the Atlantic tracks were included in the deal - we're only talking about Dusty's earnings after all (the record companies still get their cut) but these earnings would be tied also to copyrights and publishing rights.

Surely the deal would have only been attractive to investment companies if Dusty had rights that were worth a potential £6m. Most of the other similar deals made around the same time are with people and companies that own publishing rights.

I'm interested in all this too. I reckon Dusty was savvy in her business operations - the Prudential deal shows that. That platinum record for

the use of SOAPM in Pulp Fiction must have helped Dusty get that deal. She was the daughter of a tax consultant and sister to Tom who must have been savvy too - he must have earned a lot from the Seekers. Elvis owned publishing rights. The Beatles fought long and hard to get their NEMS rights back. Money in music is about records sold, radio plays, use in adverts, cinema etc. Dusty was buying songs in the Brill Building in the early 60s. I have a feeling she owned her New York tracks lock stock and barrel. I've never heard anyone cover these tracks. I think she had good ownership of many of her songs. Of course the money would run out in the late 70s/early 80s so maybe Dusty didn't invest wisely. She must have been very rich through the 60s supersonic days. She was a UK tax exile apart from anything else during her time in the USA. But maybe the funding of her 'retirement years' was all down to record sales and plays which eventually dried up until the Pet Shop Boys brought her back in style. At the end of her life she had more money in the bank than Elvis did when he passed away.

Memphis
Ever since we met...



MissDustyFanatic

Where am I going?



USA
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Posted - 25/09/2008 : 05:30:43

quote:

Originally posted by memphisinlondon

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Memphis
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So I'm assuming that Tom owns her catalogue now and gets the royalties?

"And I can play the game of life...to win"



memphisinlondon

Where am I going?

Posted - 25/09/2008 : 09:47:30



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

I don't know the details of what was in Dusty's Will and who the beneficiaries were. Dusty sold her future earnings from royalties for £6m. The remainder of this sum will be in the Estate which will retain all other non earning music rights (whatever they may be). From what I've read, Tom is a big part of the Estate and presumably he was the executor too.

Maybe the Sharon White book will tell us more. It's already been spotted in some shops.

Memphis
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Posted - 25/09/2008 : 13:48:18

daydreamer
Moderator
★★★★★



United Kingdom
5404 Posts

It's actually Sharon Davis Memphis, but I knew who you meant! Sharon's book is officially published on 1st October but The Works get their stock direct from the printers and start selling as soon as they get it. It apparently has a slightly cheaper looking cover with a different logo than the one that goes to the mainstream bookshops, but the text is the same. I have read the whole manuscript and there is mention of the will, but I've forgotten what was said, and anyway, it can all be read soon enough 🤔

Carole x

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



Posted - 25/09/2008 : 17:54:01

Will
Wasn't born to follow
★★★★★



United Kingdom
7603 Posts

>>Dusty sold her future earnings from royalties for £6m<<

By all accounts, that figure was greatly inflated, the real estate being less than one sixth of that.

Will

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

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



Posted - 25/09/2008 : 20:47:07

memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
★★★



United Kingdom
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Blimey! Less than a million? Do you know how much she sold her royalties for, Will?

I guess Dusty would have had to pay taxes and duties and there'd be expensive medical bills and other bills to pay. I'm just glad she had some money towards the end so she could take care of herself. I guess she was taking care of her business too so no-one else would have to.

Carole - I keep calling her Sharon White! Oh, you did read the manuscript.... I've only just now ordered the book. I should have it by the week-end or early next week.

Memphis
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Edited by - memphisinlondon on 25/09/2008 23:43:16



Posted - 25/09/2008 : 23:47:59

Will
Wasn't born to follow
★★★★★



>>Do you know how much she sold her royalties for, Will?<<

The precise figure I have read was £750,000 - exactly how accurate that is, I don't know.

>>I'm just glad she had some money towards the end so she could



United Kingdom
7603 Posts

take care of herself<<

In the closing section of Dancing With Demons, which is where the above figure comes from, it is noted that the money allowed Dusty to move to a more private house without having the press close enough to intrude at a very private and difficult time. That is given as the principal reason for the sale.

Will

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

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



memphisinlondon

Where am I going?



Posted - 26/09/2008 : 00:49:50



Thanks very much Will. It's on page 277 of my copy of DWD. £750,000 for a life's work but it got her out of sight and into privacy.

I've been thinking it was the reported £6m. I think I'm going to have to read DWD again and cross check with Sharon...DAVIS!

Memphis
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