



The Archives of Let's Talk Dusty!

[Home](#) | [Profile](#) | [Active Topics](#) | [Active Polls](#) | [Members](#) | [Search](#) | [FAQ](#)

Username: Password:

Save Password

[Forgot your Password?](#)

[All Forums](#)

[Let's Talk Dusty! The Forum](#)

[Don't Forget About Me](#)

[Travels with Patsy Cline and Dusty Springfield](#)

Forum Locked Topic Locked

Printer Friendly

Author

Topic

daydreamer

Moderator



Posted - 22/02/2007 : 18:37:42



United Kingdom
5404 Posts

I subscribe to Yahoo alerts and every now and then, it brings up an interesting little piece....like this.

[Travels with Patsy Cline and Dusty Springfield](#)

Written by Holly Hughes

Published February 21, 2007

Sometimes a mother has to look out for her daughter. When my sons were little I made sure they listened to the Beatles and the Stones and the Beach Boys, so they'd know where they'd come from, musically speaking. For my daughter's eighth birthday, however, I bought her three CDs: The Very Best of Dusty Springfield, 12 Greatest Hits of Patsy Cline, and The Best of Janis Joplin. Time for the child to get herself a few role models.

Well, Janis Joplin fell on deaf ears, but my daughter loved, I mean L-O-V-E-D, the other two. Every time we took a car trip together – and we drove a lot together that summer – all I had to ask her was “Patsy or Dusty?” and we'd have the CD player going. Thelma and Louise had nothing on us as we toiled along the interstate, singing at full blast.

I'd always been a Dusty Springfield fan (my British Invasion weakness has been well documented here and elsewhere), but including Patsy was sort of a fluke. I didn't even know who Patsy Cline was until I saw the movie *Sweet Dreams*; buying her records after that was kinda like buying a Dalmatian puppy after seeing *101 Dalmatians*. But in the long run, it doesn't matter how you find the music, so long as you love it when you do.

And I will say, in my defense, that Patsy Cline's songs had entered my consciousness long before. There were a bunch of similar great female singers in the early '60s — Teresa Brewer, Brenda Lee, the divine Skeeter Davis (her “End of the World” was one of my favorite tracks even before Herman's Hermits covered it) – and I knew their songs even if I couldn't tell you who sang which one. Sitting through *Sweet Dreams*, I kept saying, to myself, “Wow, she sang that one too?” When you stop to think that Patsy only had six years to make her mark – she put out only three albums before that plane crash took her in 1963 – the quality of the output is incredible.

On those car trips, going deep into those twelve great Patsy tunes was a revelation for me. The confidence of her voice simply astounds me – the way she could fiddle with the beat, top a high note with perfect pitch, zoom in and out on volume (often on a single word), curl her voice around a phrase just so. Phrasing? Patsy had a instinct for phrasing nearly as good as Sinatra's. Putting a song across? Patsy was a born storyteller – an essential for any country music performer – an actor who knew exactly when to quaver with emotion and when to bite off a lyric spitefully.

We all know the song “Crazy”, of course – funny enough, written by Willie Nelson, his first songwriting hit. Flavored more by jazz and pop than by country (that cocktail lounge piano twiddling around), it was a big crossover number for her in 1961. Willie didn't write this song for Patsy, but it sure ended up in the right hands: who else could have done that swooping thing on the word “crazy”? And who else would have been smart enough to keep this song so light-hearted? Because if you listen to the lyrics, it's a martyr's song – she's feeling blue, he's left her for somebody

new, she's wondering what she did to lose him, she's embarrassed that she ever thought she could keep him. "I'm crazy for trying / And crazy for crying / And I'm crazy for loving you." A lesser singer would be whining and moaning; Patsy just sounds dazed and bemused, with a little chuckle in her voice. Even she knows he's not worth it. And yet — she can't help it. That's just the way love is.

I dunno why, I find this profound.

This is the same gal who goes out "Walkin' After Midnight," obsessively visiting the spots where she used to hang with her ex-boyfriend; who finds it "Strange" that she's still dreaming of the man who suddenly dumped her for another woman; who's found a much better new boyfriend and still moons around wondering "Why Can't He Be You?" Patsy Cline is the high priestess of hard-luck girls wearing their hearts on their sleeves — but her genius is to keep the rhythms perky, her voice light, even flippant (just an occasional note betraying a yodel of anguish). Unlike Skeeter Davis, Patsy doesn't think the world's going to end because her feller left her. She's bruised but brave, and she knows perfectly well that nothing she says will bring that louse back.

Which brings me back to Dusty Springfield. Dusty was a little more my era — I remember "Wishing and Hoping" and "All Cried Out" getting huge radio play; I remember seeing her on TV (Shindig?) with her platinum bouffant and Egyptian mascara. Since Dusty was British, I lumped her in with Petula Clark and Sandie Shaw and Lulu and Marianne Faithful, but if I'd closed my eyes and listened to her blind I would have classed her with Aretha Franklin and Gladys Knight instead — Dusty had an R & B voice that those other British girls simply couldn't touch.

Underneath it all, however, it's really Dusty and Patsy who are like sisters. I'm not talking sound — though Dusty could veer into country when she needed to (there's that entire brilliant Dusty in Memphis album, with its hit single "Son of A Preacher Man" flavored liberally with country guitar licks). And sure, they have vocal artistry in common — just listen to the way Dusty plays the languid mood shifts in "The Look of Love" or the dark-voiced warnings of "You Don't Own Me." Control, confidence, and possible the richest smoky timbre ever.

But the real core of Dusty's catalog is love-victim songs like "I Close My Eyes and Count To Ten" — where she's just grateful that the guy hasn't left yet! — or the sublimely mopey Bacharach-David number "I Just Don't Know What To Do With Myself." Best of all is the please-kick-me-again anthem "You Don't Have To Say You Love Me." On one level, I should be all outraged and feminist about this song, but honestly, it's got more than a ring of truth to it. Look, we all know men have a hard time saying "I love you." Dusty's just reporting, and reporting accurately, from the front lines of the battlefield of love. She calls it like she sees it.

Here's the scenario: She took a risk and told her man she needed him, and he responded appropriately, saying he'd stay forever. Sure. The next thing she knew, he moved out. Well, Dusty learns from experience — if he'll just come back, she'll put no more pressure on him. "You don't have to say you love me / Just be close at hand / You don't have to stay forever / I will understand." And if that's not enough, she spells it out very very clearly: "Believe me, believe me / I can't help but love you / But believe me / I'll never tie you down." With all the back-up "ahhs", the string section, the horns, it's played for grandeur — it's her big gesture, her playing-for-broke moment. In the hands of a lesser singer, it would just sound needy, but Dusty's voice is so damn powerful, all you can do is marvel at her strength.

Of course, we don't believe the guy will ever come back. Dusty knows her case is hopeless even as she pleads it. It's not really about winning him back at this point. It's about giving voice to that magnificent passion — and to the passion of every woman who ever got dumped by a guy who didn't deserve her in the first place.

Yes, Dusty succeeded Patsy as the high priestess of Victims of Love. She was always at her best getting kicked in the teeth. Okay, Dusty ventured a little further into the realm of self-abasement than Patsy ever did, but like Patsy, she never stooped to self-pity. And neither of them ever tried to fob us off with romantic platitudes. Love hurts, and they're here to tell you about it, that's all.

Well, so much for giving my daughter good role models. For her next birthday, I'm thinking of laying a little Bonnie Raitt on her. "Love Has No Pride," "Have a Heart," "I Can't Make You Love Me" – whaddya think?

Email this • Subscribe to this feed

Holly A Hughes has been a rock 'n roll fan since February 9, 1964. She's heard it all, on vinyl, cassettes, 8-track tapes, CDs, and mp3 files. But so long as it's got a good beat, she'll dance to it.

Keep reading for information and comments on this article, and add some feedback of your own!

Buy from

Patsy Cline - 12 Greatest Hits

Patsy Cline

Music The Very Best of Dusty Springfield

Dusty Springfield

Music, Usually ships in 24 hours

Travels with Patsy Cline and Dusty Springfield

Published: February 21, 2007

<http://blogcritics.org/archives/2007/02/21/190358.php>

Carole x

Edited by - daydreamer on 22/02/2007 18:38:26

MattMidd1

I've got a good thing



United Kingdom
4270 Posts

Posted - 22/02/2007 : 19:24:07

Thanks for that Carole 😊 Really interesting. Wonder if anyone could get her to join LTD.

Matt.

23 weeks; then a different country, here I come!!



paula

Moderator



USA
5012 Posts

Posted - 23/02/2007 : 02:10:54

thanks for the article, Carole. I put Patsy Cline right up there..near Dusty...she would be on my short list of best female singers. 😊

paula x



Jen

Little by little



Canada
175 Posts

Posted - 24/02/2007 : 16:38:14

Thanks for this article Carole, 😊I find this stuff quite fascinating! 😊

A little while back I came across a tape that I had put together years (...and years!) ago. I always considered it my ultimate "hyper-melodramatic, tragedy tape" - Patsy on one side, and Dusty on the other!! It was the theme of my late teens/early twenties. Sadly, too true!!

I recently burned it to CD and still have to be sure that I'm not feeling even a little fragile before listening to it... all that tragedy comes flooding back!! 😊

I've heard of Teresa Brewer, Brenda Lee but Skeeter Davis is a name I've not heard before. I shall investigate.... thanks again.

Jen





mssdusty
I've got a good thing
★★★★★

Posted - 24/02/2007 : 17:36:34

AND AS ALWAYS THANK YOU
MARY



I only think of the day I Met Dusty and MY pains go away.IT's Great!



USA
5821 Posts

daydreamer
Moderator
★★★★★

Posted - 24/02/2007 : 18:12:21



I have one of those tapes Jen, mine is called "Soppy Girls"! End of the World is a fabulous song, one of those early sixties one offs. It had spoken lines and a heartfelt vocal. I've no idea if Skeeter Davis ever had another hit but I'll always remember that one, it was part of my introduction to pop music. Maybe someone (who knows how 🙄), could post it here.

Carole x

United Kingdom
5404 Posts

Edited by - daydreamer on 24/02/2007 18:12:39



Corinna
Forum Admin
★★★★★

Posted - 24/02/2007 : 22:38:47



I have a cover version of End of the world, sung by Abba-Agnetha. She sings it very nicely. :-)

Cor xx



Sweden
6080 Posts

Tom Lovett
Little by little
★

Posted - 25/02/2007 : 09:52:03



Hi Carole

According to the 'Complete UK Hit Singles 1952 - 2004, Skeeter Davis only had the one UK hit 'End of the World' in 1963. What I didn't know was that she was one of the first black country performers to have crossed over to white audiences. In 1974 she was barred from the Grand Ole Opry after an on stage tirade against Nashville's police but the ban was later lifted.

Tom.

United Kingdom
944 Posts

In sparkle gown, perfection, spinning impossible arcs of vibrato through smouldering waves of invisible sound.



daydreamer
Moderator
★★★★★

Posted - 25/02/2007 : 12:30:17



She never looked black on her photo's Tom! I think maybe it means she was a crossover artist from country to pop? Found a couple of YouTube clips, first one is the record and second a live version with her in a very country girl dress!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22SvTDAt07M>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0l-GpISGBFY>

Carole x

United Kingdom
5404 Posts



Cas19

Wasn't born to follow



8313 Posts

Posted - 25/02/2007 : 14:01:56

quote:

Originally posted by Corinna

I have a cover version of End of the world, sung by Abba-Agnetha. She sings it very nicely. :-)

Cor xx

I have this one too Cor and she really does do a great job the whole album is marvellous with quite a few songs on there that I'd have thought ideal for Dusty too.

Carole the article you found was of great interest to me having quite a lot of Patsys music, I enjoy her easy listening style.

Casx

Casx



Jen

Little by little



Canada
175 Posts

Posted - 25/02/2007 : 15:06:11

Thanks for the links Carole.

....as is so often the case, the song was vaguely familiar to me after all!

.....buckets of pathos all 'round!!!

Jen



Cas19

Wasn't born to follow



8313 Posts

Posted - 25/02/2007 : 16:33:02

Yes thanks for the link Carole ...had no idea what she looked like ..had a Golden Oldie flash back moment!! Wonderful 😊

Golden Biddie Casx 😊



Topic

Forum Locked
Locked

Printer Friendly

Jump To:

The Archives of Let's Talk Dusty! © 2006-2009 Nancy J. Young, Laura Howard, Rob Wilkins, Corinna Muller

