

# Let's Talk Dusty!

The Ultimate Forum for Dusty Springfield Fans

Skip to content

 

[Advanced search](#)

## 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough'

Post a reply

 

7 posts • Page **1** of **1**

### 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough' (#p34364)

by **humboldt** » Mon Sep 27, 2010 5:16 pm

This got lost in the Tammi Terrell thread so I thought that I'd give it a home of it's own. If it's not in the correct forum then please move it.

I have asked my contact at Universal in New York if he can to reach out to Nick & Val to ask them what the real truth is. I said that we Dusty fans are dying to put this story to bed once and for all. So fingers crossed that I get an answer. (See below)

Anyway whatever the outcome I think that Dusty & her manager at the time in '67 - '69 (was it Vic Billings) missed a golden opportunity to record 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough'. Marvin & Tammi's version failed to chart in the UK possibly because Marvin was virtually unknown apart from his hit 'It Takes Two' with Kim Weston and no one had even heard of Tammi! Prior to Ross recording it in 1970 the song was dead. I'm assuming that Motown and Ashford/Simpson would have been delighted if someone of Dusty's calibre came and breathed new life into it. Another wasted opportunity methinks!

Reply from Harry Weinger Vice President of A&R for Universal Music Enterprises catalog, reissue arm of Universal Music.

I am not sure what more I can add to what I've already said. It comes down to semantics, it seems: A&S had a portfolio of songs, Dusty heard - or heard of - "Ain't No Mountain." When A&S got the Motown call, that song was then off the table. This kind of stuff happens all the time. Subsequently, when researching the back story for TCMS 7, this particular piece of information was edited by me into "the song was written for DS," a point then repeated on the Tammi show. While on JP's radio show I re-clarified (or, if you like, corrected) that, perhaps, no, it wasn't specifically "written for DS."

Top

### Re: 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough' (#p34421)

by **mmmcv1** » Mon Sep 27, 2010 10:17 pm

Oh my- have you been badgering the man or something? He sounds perturbed in that reply. 😊

fortunately, since both Nick and Val are still with us, we can still ask...and the best place to go would be the Sugar Bar, the club they own on W 72nd in Manhattan.

They have these crazy open mic nights every Thursday, and if they're in town, either Nick or Val

(more often than not, it's Val) or both will usually show up (not to mention, you'll also bump into the occasional celebrity).

this is from a few years back: this guy is singing Diana Ross' *IT'S MY HOUSE!!!* (an A&S composition, of course). Note who is playing the keys...

[youtube]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3vsO9op1iY>[/youtube]

sorry for veering off-topic, but these are fairly accessible folks- getting an answer to this question is definitely not a lost cause!!! 😊

Top

### Re: 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough' (#p34425)

by **humboldt** » Mon Sep 27, 2010 11:09 pm

Well if anyone is in NYC and can ask Nick & Val what their memories are re 'Mountain' that would be great.

Top

### Re: 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough' (#p34433)

by **Sweetbaby** » Tue Sep 28, 2010 12:02 am

😊 I recall reading a mini-interview with Ashford & Simpson (in **Rolling Stone?**) when they were promoting their **Come as You Are** album in 1976; asked if they'd ever written for a specific artist, the duo's reply was that they had revamped a song for a specific artist, namely *Aint No Mountain High Enough* for Diana Ross. So implicitly Ashford & Simpson's answer was no they had never written a song for a specific artist & while I realize we shouldn't imbue a brief answer in a brief interview with undue significance I do think this answer - which specifically references ANMHE - should be given some consideration in the matter of whether or not that song was intended for Dusty.

Ashford & Simpson appear to have been signed as in-house songwriters for Motown in 1966; certainly ANMHE - which was released in May 1967 - was published by Motown's in-house music publisher Jobete. So logically it was destined for a Motown artist. Whether a version by Dusty cut for the UK market might have become a hit we shall of course never know. That it didn't happen isn't surprising: UK artists covering US hits while standard practice in the early '60s seems to have fallen into disfavor by the second half of the decade. Also a prospective single by a UK artist which was a Motown cover would likely be viewed as a "knock-off", the Motown sound being that much more recognizable than say the Chicago soul sound of *Am I the Same Girl*.

Top

### Re: 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough' (#p36622)

by **mnmcv1** » Thu Oct 14, 2010 11:25 pm

@John- it's still tentative, but I may be heading back to NYC in the next month or two (I was last there in August). I'm gonna make a point of visiting the Sugar Bar if time permits, and if Nick or Val are there, I'll be sure to ask. If I'm not *too* starstruck... 😊

Top

## **Re: 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough' (#p36645)**

by **allherfaces** » Fri Oct 15, 2010 4:00 am

Not to veer toooooooooooooooooooooo far off topic, but back in the 70s when this song came on at the gay bar in Houston (The Farmhouse) we would all rush onto the floor to dance. We called it "the gay national anthem." 😊

Top

## **Re: 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough' (#p38359)**

by **Corinna** » Sat Oct 30, 2010 6:54 pm

Nancy - do you mean Ain't No Mountain High Enough was considered a gay anthem in Houston? -- How come? (I've never thought of it as 'gay'...)

Top

Display posts from previous:  Sort by

Post a reply

7 posts • Page **1** of **1**

[Return to You Set My Dreams To Music](#)

Jump to:

## **Who is online**

Users browsing this forum: No registered users and 7 guests

Powered by phpBB® Forum Software © phpBB Group :: Style: L\_Antre