

Let's Talk Dusty!

The Ultimate Forum for Dusty Springfield Fans

[Skip to content](#)

[Advanced search](#)

- [Board index](#) < [Let's Talk Dusty! The Forum](#) < [Don't Forget About Me](#)
- [Change font size](#)
- [Print view](#)

- [FAQ](#)
- [Register](#)
- [Login](#)

[Dusty and Kathy Kirby](#)

[Post a reply](#)

4 posts • Page 1 of 1

[Dusty and Kathy Kirby](#)

■ by [Ron57](#) » Wed May 21, 2014 12:01 pm

Apologies if this has been dealt with in the archives somewhere.

I recently started reading a biography of the late Kathy Kirby by Mark Willerton and I was struck by some similarities to Dusty.

They both had Irish mothers, were both convent school educated, both were naturally red haired but changed to blonde. Both had difficult times personally and professionally after the heady days of the 1960s (more so for KK I think). KK was IMHO one of the more interesting female artists of the 1960s. She occupied a slightly different musical berth to Dusty, perhaps more at home in the Springfields era.

Here is a Dusty quote from a 1960s pop annual (via Kathy Kirby.org)

'In many ways, Kathy Kirby and I are very alike. I don't know Kathy very well. We both have tremendous driving ambition. She has also battled very hard, for a long time, to get where she's got, as I did in my own way'.

They appeared together on 'Thank your lucky stars' in 1963.

Ron (who can just about remember KK at the Eurovision song contest 1965)

[Ron57](#)

I start counting

Posts: 3

Joined: Sat Apr 26, 2014 8:17 pm

[Top](#)

[Re: Dusty and Kathy Kirby](#)

■ by [daydreamer](#) » Wed May 21, 2014 8:45 pm

I must get that Mark Willerton book, I've been told it's a really good read. I was trying to think if there were any pictures of Dusty and Kathy together and the only one I could come up with was this one.



There's a part of you, that's a part of me...

Carole x



[davdreamer](#)

Moderator



Posts: 3667

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:17 am

Location: Cheshire, England

[Top](#)

[Re: Dusty and Kathy Kirby](#)

by [darren2722](#) » Thu Nov 27, 2014 4:57 pm

Here's the whole Article from the Annual.(Not sure which Annual) Sorry if this has appeared before.

Attachments

CILLA



KATHY

GIRLS don't have automatic hits. It's much tougher for them, than it is for the boys.

The Beatles, Cliff—loads of the boys—make records, and if they're riding high in popularity, their follow-ups to previous hits usually walk, or run, straight into the charts. Of course, how high the records get after that depends on the number, the performance, and on how well it is plugged by the artist. But with girl recording stars, it's a very different story.

The girl has got to work much harder for her successes. She's got to work a whole lot harder at being an artist. If she doesn't push her latest record—supporting it with as many live performances as possible on TV and radio, she has a very slim chance of getting a hit. She's got to be behind the record all the way.

That's where Shirley Bassey scores so heavily. When she makes a new disc, she doesn't miss a trick to help put it over. She makes as many personal appearances as possible on television and radio. I admire what she does.

Petula Clark goes behind her discs in the same way in France, and when she did the same for "Downtown" over here, look what happened.

As a matter of fact, the three countries I want to be successful in are Britain, France, and America. There's a great market on the Continent—as Pet has discovered. France hasn't any singers like me, and I know they go for

my kind of style because they go mad when they get a coloured show, and my singing, I think, has a "coloured" feel. France caught on to Ray Charles and the Twist months before we did. In that way they are very much ahead, but in their own beat and rock 'n' roll field, they are far behind, which is why they are so enthusiastic about the sounds of acts like the Shirelles.

I definitely want to establish a foothold in France. As I am completely different from Pet, we don't compete. As soon as I can, I shall start going over there to work.

Meanwhile, over here, I still have a tough time ahead. There's nothing certain about this business—especially for a girl. There's Cilla Black who after her No. 1 hit "Anyone Who Had a Heart", had to face the great problem of following it up. She found the answer, but you can't hit the bullseye every shot.

Cilla, Kathy Kirby, and myself—in a year's time—are liable not to be in the Hit Parade. That's the way things are in Britain. Maybe I'm wrong—I hope so. I suppose it largely depends on the material we find and put over, but it also depends on whether our present public decides to keep liking us.

In many ways, Kathy Kirby and I are very alike. I don't know Kathy very well. We both have tremendous driving ambition. She has also batted very hard, for a long long time, to get where she's got, as I did in my own way. I mean, pre-Springfield, I was with another group.

I started very young. And before that, was stringing with a guitar, trying to get some satisfaction out of singing. All the while, I was gradually working towards a career.



I knew when I started singing with a guitar, that I wanted to be a star, but didn't know how I was going to do it. I had no idea that, for instance, you have to know people. There's so much luck in it. The Springfields' agent just happened to be the kind who knew people, and we were booked for Butlin's solely because he knew someone there. We weren't even in existence, but were booked, and that helped us knock a lot of the odd corners off our act.

This made us more ready for going to Churchill's Club in Mayfair, where we did 19 weeks. This was more valuable basic training, and it's good to get this kind of training in places in which you're not quite so much in the public eye, so that you don't see the rough edges being knocked off your style.





I Couldn't Ask For More



[darren2722](#)

Someone who cares



Posts: 7909

Joined: Sat Jun 16, 2012 6:12 pm

Location: Sittingbourne Kent

[Top](#)

[Re: Dusty and Kathy Kirby](#)

by [Brian](#) » Thu Nov 27, 2014 6:53 pm

Kathy had a strong voice, but dare I say, she appealed more to the 'older' generation at the time. Dusty was 'groovy', 'with it' and really on the pulse of what was happening. She was 'modern' and the young girls tried to copy her, whereas Kathy (who was truly beautiful and always immaculate) was more an icon for the older woman who no doubt envied her figure/perfect hairstyle and glossy lips!

Kathy really had a very limited 'chart career' with just 5 top 40 hits, and had it not been for bad management could have perhaps had a few more.



KK3.jpg (49.21 KiB) Viewed 1457 times



KK2.jpg (7.16 KiB) Viewed 1457 times

Brian
"Live it up"



[Brian](#)

Someone who cares



Posts: 9220

Joined: Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:26 am

Location: Appleford Oxfordshire

[Top](#)

Display posts from previous: Sort by

[Post a reply](#)

4 posts • Page 1 of 1

[Return to Don't Forget About Me](#)

Jump to:

Who is online

Users browsing this forum: Bing [Bot] and 2 guests

- [Board index](#)
- [The team](#) • [Delete all board cookies](#) • All times are UTC

Powered by [phpBB®](#) Forum Software © phpBB Group :: Style: [L. Antre](#)