

Let's Talk Dusty!

The Ultimate Forum for Dusty Springfield Fans
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Dusty and the Stylistics

<http://www.dustyspringfield.org.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=1646>

Dusty and the Stylistics

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by **st louis blues**

Posted: **Mon Oct 25, 2010 2:53 am**

It's a very rainy night here so I thought I would dig out some old albums to listen to. First up was the Stylistics greatest hits. I have often thought that their lead singer, Russell Thomkins, reminded me of Dusty with his falsetto. After playing this record I followed with the vinyl edition of "Brand New Me." I couldn't help but notice how similar the production was on these two and then realized that Thom Bell was connected to both. I remember reading an interview with him and he talked a little about Dusty. He said he didn't blame Gamble and Huff for going after Dusty to produce since she was so talented. He said she was a nice lady, but felt she should have trusted her instincts more. This was regarding some of the songs on BNM. Bell felt many of the songs sounded too much alike and that she knew this but was reluctant to say anything. I really like this album, but I tend to agree the songs are not as strong as DIM. The production sounds good; I love the Philly soul sound.

I did a little checking and it seems Bell pretty much controlled the the group and knew the strength was the voice of Thomkins. Bell hooked up with them around 1968-69 which I believe was around the time she recording BNM. I wonder if Dusty's vocals influenced Thompkins or vice versa or was this just a coincidence. I thought I read that she opened for them in Vegas and that they were friends. They had some really good songs and I wonder what might have happened if she had let Bell produce her. It's a mystery why she wasn't highly regarded here in the states as a soul singer. The Memphis album and BNM should have proved how good she was at this. Does anyone else hear a similarity between Dusty and the Stylistics? Maybe she was just ahead of her time, or I'm grasping at straws. What do y'all think?

Re: Dusty and the Stylistics

by **mnmcv1**

Posted: **Mon Oct 25, 2010 3:17 pm**

i hear a lot of Thom Bell's "sound" in *A Brand New Me*...probably nowhere moreso than on "Never Love Again". THAT's definitely got the sound all over it. As a result, I can hear something by the Stylistics, like "Stop, Look, Listen (to Your Heart)", or the Delfonics "Didn't I (Blow Your Mind This Time)", and find the artistic thread that joins them to Dusty.

It's a shame Dusty couldn't have held on at Atlantic a bit longer- I think if she had worked with Bell again circa 1973, when Thom had probably his most prolific period producing The Spinners ("I'll Be Around", "Could it Be I'm Falling in Love", "Then Came You"), the result would've been explosive. He's also on record saying he had a great time working with Dusty... 😊

his output diminished after the 70's, and like Dusty, his golden period was over before I was born.

BUT...I'm glad I was around for this 1982 smash, which on the right given day can still choke me up...

[youtube]http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5oRVAtHRpsI[/youtube]

Re: Dusty and the Stylistics

by **terri**

Posted: **Mon Oct 25, 2010 3:30 pm**

Hi There-

I heard the Stylistic sound definately in Wanna Be a Free Girl. The music and arrangement, not the voice. I love the Stylistics music! I may dig that one out- Soooo romantic!

Re: Dusty and the Stylistics

by **daydreamer**

Posted: **Mon Oct 25, 2010 4:34 pm**

I've never really thought of comparing Dusty to the Stylistics but I've always really liked them and Russell Thompkins voice, so maybe at the back of my mind there was a connection going on. I saw Thompkins on stage two years back and he still has a fabulous voice. I don't remember ever reading that Dusty opened for them in Vegas, in fact in interview in 1977 she said she had never played Vegas at all. She did play Lake Tahoe once and said she did it as a favour to the group she was appearing with but I don't think it was the Stylistics, though I do think it was a group beginning with an S!

Re: Dusty and the Stylistics

by **daydreamer**

Posted: **Mon Nov 01, 2010 11:12 am**

It was The Spinners! Dusty had this to say, talking of not appearing in Vegas, "I knew I couldn't sing two shows in a night, seven nights a week. I'm no good at that. The best one was....I did play Tahoe and that was great, that was with The Spinners and it was a very special week. For some reason, the entire place closed down for one night and it was only for, like, six nights so basically we did two nights, or three nights, and then I had a day off and then did the other two or three nights. Which was....I've no idea why it was, maybe it was a Shriners' evening or something like that, but that was a lot of fun. That was my only experience of that but it was wonderful because it was The Spinners. They were wonderful....ARE wonderful!"

Re: Dusty and the Stylistics

by **Carole R.**

Posted: **Tue Nov 02, 2010 2:10 pm**

re above:

Was this the group formerly known as The Detroit Spinners?

CR xx

Re: Dusty and the Stylistics

by **paula**

Posted: **Tue Nov 02, 2010 4:04 pm**

well in light of Carole G's post , I guess this title should be 'Dusty & the Spinners' 😊

Carole R...one and the same...known just as 'the Spinners' while with Motown and

'Detroit Spinners' after leaving

the label

paula x

[youtube]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l5VaRSEvq8U>[/youtube]

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