Let's Talk Dusty!

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Knowing When To Leave

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Knowing When To Leave (#p52)

by daydreamer » Thu Dec 17, 2009 8:05 pm

Dusty performed this song at least four times live and you have to wonder why? Maybe she liked a challenge but the pace of the song has her beat and breathless at times. But she puts her all into it and I can't think of another singer who could sing a song like this with a mic in one hand while the other hand frantically performs every movement in the book! It's all perfectly choreographed to the music though. Go girl

[youtube]http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymgDYg34zZg[/youtube]

Carole x

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

View the entire thread here:

http://www.dustyspringfield.info/old_fo ... IC_ID=5776 (http://www.dustyspringfield.info/old_forum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=5776)

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p725)

by Corinna » Tue Jan 05, 2010 6:19 pm

It's one of my very favourite live songs!

A challenge for sure! I wonder if she wanted her 'own' Bacharach/David challenge, just like Dionne Warwick had Promises Promises? DW said somewhere how challenging that song was with regards to breathing technique, key changes etc.

Here's another version of Knowing when to leave (2 Jan 1971, Rolf Harris Show)

[youtube]http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sc9DuMbQLAM[/youtube]

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p746)

by neonouille » Tue Jan 05, 2010 7:57 pm

Carole, you said that Dusty performed this song at least four times live. When is it the fourth time? I have here :Live at the Ivor Novello Awards 10 May 1970 [youtube]http://www.youtube.com

/watch?v=kCiwGY_txF4[/youtube]

This version, with 2 jan 1971 and pink version, it's only three.

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p748)

by **neonouille** » Tue Jan 05, 2010 8:00 pm

Also, I find similar this picture and the end of the song in video.



(./download/file.php?id=116&mode=view)

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p754)

by Corinna » Tue Jan 05, 2010 8:13 pm

She's quite breathless at the Ivor Novello Awards. And that PG-rated dress probably left the audience breathless.

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p949)

by **paula** » Thu Jan 07, 2010 12:19 am

I love this song. She seemed to give herself a little more breathing room in the first version that Carole posted.

the search is on for version #4 @paula x

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p962)

by allherfaces » Thu Jan 07, 2010 3:35 am

In the version Samuel has posted

the way Dusty flips that fall at :07 🕛 😮 🚭 😂 💟 it leaves ME breathless 🕛 🔞 📦 🥸

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p963)

by allherfaces » Thu Jan 07, 2010 3:40 am

And in the version Cor has posted, isn't Dusty wearing the dress featured on the LTD website home page.... 😗

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p968)

by daydreamer » Thu Jan 07, 2010 8:01 am

Yes it is Nancy, though it's been made to look more purple there. Samuel, she sang the song twice on Rolf Harris shows, I'm not sure if the other version is around, at least visually.

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p985)

by neonouille » Thu Jan 07, 2010 12:10 pm

Thank you Carole. (3) It's all I wanted to know.

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p2361)

by **Baby Blue** » Fri Jan 15, 2010 10:19 am

NO ONE sings Bacharach as good as Dusty, including Knowing When To Leave. It's from his musical Promises, Promises. Wish she would have sang the title song too. Hmmm......is it on one of Fraser's albums?

Here's a Bacharach You tube link. I hope everyone enjoys it as much as I do!

[youtube]http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Qx8FlmJqVQ[/youtube]

Marty

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p29674)

by mnmcv1 » Tue Aug 10, 2010 9:38 pm

i'm always late to the party- the only clip left on youtube is Ivor Novello Awards. 😂



I have one of the other audio clips (from Rolf Harris, I think), and she does a better job keeping up with the song.

it's typical late period Bacharach/David (which is a good thing), with those rapid-fire lyrics and little room for air.

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p29675)

by allherfaces » Tue Aug 10, 2010 9:41 pm

Oh Markus, watch that clip again and admire her flip of the wig (fall?) at :07.

Top

Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p29685)

by mnmcv1 » Wed Aug 11, 2010 1:07 am

i just did- she is WORKIN' that wig! (or fall) 🕮 🕮 🚭

i was so sad when Dusty said in that French & Saunders documentary "love the song, HATE the hair!"

Dusty, I love that hair!!!!!!

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p29885)

by **Isparks18** » Fri Aug 13, 2010 1:09 pm

I always love discussions of this song because, agreeing with Baby Blue, no one sang Burt like Dusty. I can't think of another singer that could come off that gut busting, breathe defying mid section into the sublime "sail when the wind starts to blow" and end it the way Dusty did. I love Dionne, but her voice is not up to it and let's face it, Aretha just don't get that sublime. Which reminds me Dusty was so enamored of Aretha and said she should have prhased SOAPM like AF. Dusty's version is the one that gets picked for inclusion in movies, etc. The girl really was just too hard on herself.

Linda

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p29893)

by **SweMaria** » Fri Aug 13, 2010 3:51 pm

I agree with you Linda, Dusty was too hard on herself 🍪

I think her version of SOAPM is better than Aretha's version! I think the song swings much more natural when you emphasize the sentence (who could ever reach me) the way Dusty did! Dusty's version of the song is much more sublime!

/Maria

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p29898)

by **boztiggs** » Fri Aug 13, 2010 4:41 pm

When Aretha comes in with "the only man WHO could ever reach me" the way that she does changes the song for me, i like it but much prefer Dustys, even though she preferred Arethas take on that note.

NEIL 🙂

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p29920)

by Chris80 » Fri Aug 13, 2010 6:45 pm

I also prefer Dusty's version of SOAPM. However it is also interesting to hear Dusty singing SOAPM in Aretha's way in the RAH concert. Couldn't it be possible, that Dusty prefered Aretha's version, because it's easier to sing if you accentuate WHO instead of ever in the sentence?

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p29941)

by **jeffery** » Fri Aug 13, 2010 11:50 pm

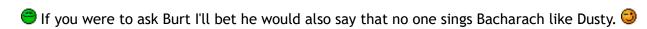
Baby Blue wrote:

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[youtube]http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Qx8FImJqVQ[/youtube]

Marty



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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p29963)

by Carole R. » Sat Aug 14, 2010 10:21 am

I can't see Burt saying that whilst Dionne is still with us!!! 🐨

Just for the record,' Knowing When To Leave' isn't one of my fave Dusty performances.

I guess its all a matter of taste. \bigcirc

CR xx

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p29970)

by Corinna » Sat Aug 14, 2010 10:54 am

Certainly it's all a matter of taste, CR. \bigcirc



But technically speaking - I can't recall ANY Dusty song that's so difficult to master with regards to the breathing techniques as Knowing When To Leave. Or if I'm mistaken, it's certainly *among* her most difficult ones.

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p29985)

by Isparks18 » Sat Aug 14, 2010 1:06 pm

Agree, Carole, not one of my fav Dusty performances. But it is even more remarkable when you think that she did a pretty good job of what basically is not a singer's song. This song sounds more like it should be instrumental. I hate to see a singer struggle to sing a song. Watching Cilla record Alfie with Burt was painful to watch as her voice is not really up to it as many singers would not be. It is a tough one too. You have to hand Dionne this one.

Linda

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p42365)

by Kyles Beguiles » Sat Dec 11, 2010 8:12 am

Her performance from "Another Evening with Burt Bacharach" is (to my ears at least) the most polished of all the performances and is actually one of my favorite live Dusty performances. She injects Dustyisms in all the right places and that final falsetto note is sublime!

Sadly, I can no longer access the video on youtube as it is said to be private. Perhaps the clip will one day receive DVD release?

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p42397)

by Corinna » Sat Dec 11, 2010 3:49 pm

Yes it seems to have gone, copyright issues apparently. What a pity.



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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p42435)

by **Kyles Beguiles** » Sat Dec 11, 2010 8:58 pm

Those darned copyright issues — always interfering with the fans' appreciation for good art!

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p69485)

by **mnmcv1** » Fri Aug 26, 2011 2:09 am

it's back! 🔯



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

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p69486)

by al14 » Fri Aug 26, 2011 3:00 am

Thanks for bringing this one back, Marcus. First time I ever heard KWTL and loved it.

Cor made a great analogy comparing this to Dionne's version of Promises, Promises. Certainly Dusty would have given Dionne a "run for her money" if she would have sung Promises, Promises.

Nobody, including Dionne, sang Bacharach as well as Dusty. On a previous thread, I commented that Dusty's career would have been much more recognized if she performed more of Bacharach's songs.

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p69551)

by IWannaBeABluesSinger » Fri Aug 26, 2011 4:07 pm

al14 wrote:

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Except it would have been kinda hard to sing Bacharach songs with Dioone Warwick's hands around her throat.

Knowing When To Leave is one of the hardest songs to sing or play - if you ever see the sheet music there are time changes throughout - that's what leaves a singer breathless.

Maggie

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p69573)

by mnmcv1 » Fri Aug 26, 2011 6:03 pm

IWannaBeABluesSinger wrote:

al14 wrote:

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Maggie

the performance on the Bacharach special is Dusty's best. She almost makes it through that crazy middle section! i said previously, it's a VERY difficult song to sing, even with exceptional breath control.

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p69578)

by **jeffery** » Fri Aug 26, 2011 8:23 pm

IWannaBeABluesSinger wrote:

al14 wrote:

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Maggie







I don't think there was that kind of animosity between them Maggie.

Can't remember exactly where I read it, but it was something about Dusty, Dionne, and someone else got together, and had some sort of mystic seance.

Casting a spell on Dusty I might believe, but choking her, m.. mm. mn NO!

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p69588)

by Kyles Beguiles » Fri Aug 26, 2011 9:14 pm

In Dionne's recent autobiography, she makes at least a few kind mentions of Dusty Springfield -Dionne said she was a friend, had an incredible voice, and that she misses her.

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p69639) by IWannaBeABluesSinger » Sat Aug 27, 2011 1:47 pm

jeffery wrote:

IWannaBeABluesSinger wrote:

al14 wrote:

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I only meant it figuratively Jeffery - Dionne was known for her possessiveness when it came to Bacharach songs. She actually had a contract with them that they had to write a certain number of songs per year for her and her recording contract was based on that. When they broke up in the seventies she sued them. It was all very unpleasant between the three of then for at least a decade.

Maggie

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p69651) by jeffery » Sat Aug 27, 2011 3:38 pm

Wow! That's something I'd never known. I wonder if that sort of agreement was arranged by management and attorneys, or if Dionne asked for it herself. Sometimes an artist doesn't have a lot of say in what the people on the business end set up in contract.

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p69665)

by Kyles Beguiles » Sat Aug 27, 2011 4:17 pm

Just to clarify some information here...

When Dionne switched from Scepter to Warner Bros. (which was, at the time, the most lucrative contract ever earned by a female artist) her contract with the label specified that she was to record new music with Bacharach and David. B&D had branched out from their work with Dionne over the last few years and began composing theatre scores and film soundtracks. When the two songwriting partners split over a silly quibble (regarding a non-Dionne project) Dionne was left in violation of her recently signed Warner Bros. contract through no fault of her own. This meant the label would be forced to sue all three parties. As a courtesy, the label executives sent her on a private jet to meet with Bacharach and try to reunite him with David as to avoid any legal proceedings, but despite her desperate plea to avoid being sued by the label (mind you, she was pregnant amidst all this) Bacharach outright refused. The label told her she could escape trouble with them if she were to sue Bacharach and David herself, so she essentially had no choice. The three settled out of court, and the details of the settlement are sworn to secrecy. David apologized to Dionne soon after the incident, but it would be over a decade before Bacharach would apologize to Dionne, during a recording session for the theme to the short-lived Aaron Spelling series Finder Of Lost Loves.

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p69696)

by **jeffery** » Sun Aug 28, 2011 1:49 am

I was intrigued with those details. They confirmed my suspicions, and it sounds as though Dionne did her level best to smooth things over. There's always a hold out. who knew it was Burt. Another reason I would never have survived music industry negotiations. The first attorney would be told to "eat s_ _ and die!"

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p69699)

by Kyles Beguiles » Sun Aug 28, 2011 2:47 am

To be fair, it sounds as though both Burt and Hal were mutually unwilling to truce despite the threat of a lawsuit.

Perhaps Dusty was better off not being their primary song muse, instead playing her cards right by cherry picking the songs she wanted and not being dependent upon them for new material like Dionne seemed to be:)

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p69816)

by **al14** » Sun Aug 28, 2011 10:18 pm

Interesting perspective. Thanks for all the background info.

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p69843)

by Corinna » Mon Aug 29, 2011 8:56 am

Thanks Kyles for this. I knew there were legal proceedings involved, but didn't know quite the intricacy of the matter! ③

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p69854)

by Cardiff Bluesgirl » Mon Aug 29, 2011 9:32 am

yes this is a well known and documented story, but the music world wouldnt be the music world without all these twists and turns, so much talent and so many egos (of different sizes) meeting and sometimes clashing.

I know Dionne goes on about uk singers pinching her hits but it happened to evryone then and of course we didnt hear the American versions at all sometimes in the UK even when they were the originals.

so we bought what we heard here and then of course Dusty helping to bring Motown to our ears and eyes was a huge change in the music scene here. I saw Dionne in concert saying about Cilla etc having huge hits here at what she considerd to be her expense but she did say that although she was annoyed when the British singers recorded her songs that at least Dusty could sing!! to return to KWTL, then yes its so hard to sing and breathe that not many could sing it, I think Dusty did it well but I think Dionne mastered it as Bacharach and David wanted it to sound.

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p69871)

by Corinna » Mon Aug 29, 2011 10:11 am

Compare for yourselves....

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p69926)

by **mnmcv1** » Mon Aug 29, 2011 4:03 pm

Cardiff Bluesgirl wrote:

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sizes) meeting and sometimes clashing.

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to return to KWTL, then yes its so hard to sing and breathe that not many could sing it, I think Dusty did it well but I think Dionne mastered it as Bacharach and David wanted it to sound.

the situation's always been a bit thorny- i think for some R&B singers it may have seemed like a throwback to the days when you had people like Pat Boone doing sanitized covers of their records. Of course, that wasnt the intent here, and I'm sure Cilla's raison d'etre wasnt to thwart Dionne's UK success. It does amuse me that Dionne STILL gets irritated about all these years. Get over it already.

But it should be acknowledged that Dionne has and does speak well of Dusty.



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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p70126)

by Kyles Beguiles » Wed Aug 31, 2011 5:33 am

I agree that Dionne really ought to toss the sour grapes after all these years and stop bashing Cilla. Of course, I am a nobody who has never had hit records that were scooped up by other eager artists before I had a chance to launch them myself, so perhaps she would prefer that I keep my opinion to myself! *lol*

Dionne's recording shows a very impressive vocal and smooth production, but I favour Dusty's live takes on this particular song despite the imperfections. Her Dusty-isms are delectable, and that final note (the long high falsetto) is consistently sublime each time.

Perhaps it is for the best that Dusty never recorded the song for album or single release, for she would have always bullied herself on stage to live up to the kind of studio perfection she would have created if given the chance - though without a doubt a studio take on this one would have been bliss for our ears.

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p90345)

by **al14** » Sat Mar 10, 2012 3:54 pm

I forgot all about this song until Sara mentioned that The Carpenters sang it as well.

However, I really don't think you can fairly compare The Carpenters' version with Dusty's. Dusty has more of a "Broadway" style to it while The Carpenters have a more easy going pace.

I also agree with the comments that Dusty's elegance and stage presence certainly make up for any

minor flaws in her performance. Dionne's version of KWTL, as much as I like her, seems to be

uninspired.

al

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p90352)

by **Sara** » Sat Mar 10, 2012 5:10 pm

I prefer this earlier version cos she seems happy and the drumming at the same time rocks 😇

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Like Dusty, Karen sang it a few times. I love them both singing it, can't compare Sara x

Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p90367)

by **al14** » Sat Mar 10, 2012 8:32 pm



Absolutely, Sara. This version is much better. Karen is incredible here. Thanks.

al

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Re: Knowing When To Leave (#p90369)

by **SweMaria** » Sat Mar 10, 2012 9:51 pm

Sara wrote:

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ocks 😇	
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ara x	

Wow, she's so good!

Thanks for posting it Sara!

I'm really impressed that she could sing and play these difficult rhythms at the same time.. At 4:25 they are turning "Always something There to Remind Me" into a samba song and she's playing a Brazilian bell..(Agogo...) .I really like this...

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