

Dream a Little Dream of Me

Written by bluesever

Tuesday, 20 April 2010 12:03 - Last Updated Saturday, 14 March 2015 14:57

Dream a Little Dream of Me

Dream a Little Dream of Me is a beautiful song. It was written by two musicians **Wilbur Schwandt** and **Fabian Andre**. Lyrics fit perfectly to its melody vibes and were created by **Gus Kahn**. The piece was published in 1930 hence it is no secret who wrote it.

Today both composers are already forgotten. They didn't create any other big hit. Gus Kahn used to write lyrics to melodies of other composers which is why his name appears more often on the history charts of music.

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First recording was accomplished in 1931 in Victor Records by Wayne King Orchestra. Ernie Birchill was the vocalist. Wayne King started his band in 1927. Earlier he played sax at the great Paul Whiteman's side. They called him 'The Waltz King' because his orchestra specialized themselves in waltzes.

In the same year two other recordings also took place, one by Ozzie Nelson Orchestra and the other one by The Dorsey Brothers. Since then the song is recorded regularly.



Wilbur Schwandt

The piece came to Elli Fitzgerald's and Louis Armstrong's likings. Both recorded it multiple times. Among others who sang Dream a Little Dream of Me are: Nat King Cole, Frankie Laine, Doris Day, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra or Dean Martin.



The Mamas and Papas

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The song however had its biggest success in 1968. A version recorded at the time by **The Mamas & The Papas** reached over seven millions sold copies all over the world. Later there were also recordings that appeared in Norway, Czech Republic or even Egypt. Orchestras in the '30-ies played Dream a Little Dream of Me in swing style, preferably at a faster tempo. Mamas & Papas arranged the song for a much slower tempo emphasizing the vocal part. Following vocalists who sang the song used to cultivate the slower style that Mamas & Papas introduced.



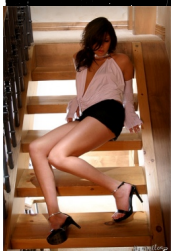
Gus Kahn

In 2001 a British band **The Beautiful South** breathed new life into the song when they published it on their album Solid Bronze. Their performance 'opened' this piece for me. I didn't suspect that it had such a long history. I discovered then that during the interwar era there were many great composers and they used to write marvelous songs.

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Dream a Little Dream

For the first time in the 1950s, all the Dream of Me's started to prefer those who had been before
being so close to the person behind you