

SIR 308 Happiness

vocal by: Paul Bristow

Release Date: (vinyl) 1989 / 03 (MP3) – 2003 / 12

Singing Call MS-64

Original artist: Bill Anderson / Ken Dodd

Hanhurst's Best Seller listing
(March 1989) – unplaced

ORIGINAL MUSIC DETAILS: WRITER: Bill Anderson
PUBLISHERS: Moss-Rose Ltd.

Ken Dodd is a probably the last remaining “Music-Hall” (Vaudeville) style comedian in the U.K., he is in his mid seventies and still regularly performs a one-man show that can last 2 to 3 hours (or longer..!). I have had the opportunity to see him perform, in person, on many occasions. During the 1960s Ken released a number of records – he is also blessed with a super voice and enjoyed success in the U.K. charts. This song – originally written and performed by “Whispering” Bill Anderson – is, here in the U.K., most often associated with Ken Dodd. For more information about Bill Anderson, check the “Record History” for “Wild Weekend”.

The music for this tune was recorded in Sweden and featured our resident studio band and a few extra session players. This was the second tune that I recorded for Sting and the first that I chose. We wanted to “re-create” the sound of the original, which I feel we achieved. It’s a good crowd pleaser, popular with both dancers and callers!

Additional Lyrics:

Happiness, happiness, the greatest gift that I possess
I thank the Lord I've been blessed
With more than my share of happiness

To me this old world is a wonderful place
And I'm just about the luckiest human in the whole human race
I've got no silver and I've got no gold – Just a whole lot of happiness in my soul

Happiness to me is an ocean tide
Or a sunset fading on a mountain side
Or maybe a big old heaven full of stars up above – When I'm in the arms of the one I love

Happiness is a field of grain
Lifting its face to the falling rain
I can see it in the sunshine, I breathe it in the rain – Happiness, happiness everywhere

A wise old man told me one time
That happiness is nothing but a frame of mind
When you come to measuring a man's success – Don't count money count happiness

I've got more than my share of happiness

Where, When and Who produced the music:

Stefan and Ingvar, together with Robert Björk, were very fortunate to locate a studio in Kumla, Sweden – by the name of the Music Mill - who were prepared to take on the task of helping us to produce music for Square Dancing.

In 1986, Bengt “Bula” Ericsson, from Katrineholm in Sweden, joined the Sting team. Ingvar Pettersson and Stefan Sidholm asked Bula to assist them with the production of the second batch of tunes and he remained an essential part of the Sting and Snow production-process for many years; this tune was recorded, as part of the third batch created in Sweden.

Using the players of a first rate Swedish Country band, called “Country Roads”, we set about creating new Square Dance music. All the players were of the highest standard, amongst these were Thomas Haglund, (on Fiddle and Mandolin); Thomas has often been referred to as the finest Fiddle Player – outside the U.S.

Over the years Sting and Snow spent quite a lot of time in the studio. This particular tune was recorded around the mid-point of our association with the Music Mill.