

1419. O Sole Mio

Backgrounds Of S. Radic

The LP "**Welterfolge für Millionen**" is a FRANZ-LAMBERT recording with the WERSI-Galaxis from 1977 with 12 wonderful arrangements by BERRY LIPMAN and WERNER DIES. It was produced under the patronage of the then Federal President Walter Scheel for the benefit of Deutsche Sporthilfe. The 12 selected countries from Ireland to Russia are represented by a respective song of the country. My project goes so far that we will play all 12 titles within the scope of the MWP special volume projects. Today we are "musically" in ITALY and are playing a real "brand mark" of Italy: "O Sole Mio", whereby the degree of popularity is probably 99.9%.

O sole mio (Neapolitan for My Sun) is a song composed in April 1898 by the Neapolitan musician and composer Eduardo Di Capua. The Neapolitan "o" corresponds to the Italian article "il". "Origin. Eduardo Di Capua was on tour with the Neapolitan State Orchestra in 1898. One night, in Odessa, a port city in southern Russia at that time, Di Capua could not sleep because of the cold and his homesickness. When the sun rose in the morning and shimmered through the hotel room, the melody to 'O sole mio. Di Capua underlined the melody with the verses of the Neapolitan poet Giovanni Capurro. O sole mio is a Neapolitan folk song, despite its place of origin. Di Capua also created the world-famous song O, Marie and died like Capurro in poverty because there was no copyright or royalty in his time. For 25 lire, both authors sold the rights to the publishing house of Ferdinando Bideri in Naples.

There is a third author who transferred the notes of 'O sole mio to the music paper: Emanuele Alfredo Mazzucchi (1878-1972). While Mazzucchi did not make any financial claims, his heirs filed an action for copyright and the trial lasted over 25 years. In October 2002, a judge finally ruled in favour of the Mazzucchi, who now hold the rights to the song until 2042. The annual royalties are estimated at 250,000 US dollars.

Distribution. With 'O sole mio, Di Capua created a popular song that celebrated a triumphal march around the world with its catchy melody. The great Neapolitan tenor Enrico Caruso recorded the song in 1916 and Giuseppe Anselmi recorded it in 1907. Later, almost all the great tenors included the song in their repertoire.



Singers from light music, such as Dean Martin, also recorded the song with great success. The version It's Now or Never (with a text by Aaron Schroeder and Wally Gold), sung by Elvis Presley, reached the top of the charts in both Great Britain and the USA in 1960. At the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp, the Italian national anthem could not be found and instead 'O sole mio was played. The song is and was the favourite piece of celebrities such as Mikhail Gorbachev, Pope John Paul II and Hugo Chavez. The first cosmonaut in space, Yuri Gagarin, hummed the melody during his first orbit around the world. (Source: Wikipedia) "Franz Lambert version is played here in a modern 8beat arrangement by WERNER DIES (1928-2003), a German jazz tenor saxophonist, clarinetist, pop composer and arranger. Even the rather "bluesy" introduction indicates the direction here. In my version 2 (original transcript) some arrangement peculiarities stand out, like the bass phrases, as well as a quite interesting accompaniment idea in the Vers-repeat with fast 16th-strings:



In the last two refrain-repeats you can hear beautiful Bells-Fill-In's with which the arrangement ends at the end:



8Beat, T=120

The musical score is divided into two main sections: **Main 1** and **Main 2**. The score is written for five instruments: Bells, Strings, Guitar, Bass, and Drums. The time signature is 4/4, and the tempo is 8Beat, T=120. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

- Main 1:** The bass line starts with a refined melody in the first bar, then remains on the fundamental in the second bar before jumping to fifths. The guitar accompaniment consists of chords and single notes. The strings play an area chord. The drums play a pattern of eighth notes with 'HH-sticked' and 'BD Rimshot'.
- Main 2:** The bass and guitar parts have different phrases. The strings play a very fast 16th-note phrase. The drums play a pattern of eighth notes with 'DSD'.

Programmieranweisung

Here you have to program two relatively different 8Beat rhythms, which are used for the two title parts. The chorus is accompanied by the Main 1, whereby the refined bass part is immediately noticeable in the first bar - in the second bar the bass remains on the fundamental and then ends the bar with a jump in fifths - very good, because otherwise the bass would simply be too restless. In the Main 2, the bass and guitar parts sound completely different phrases, which also adapt better to the verse part of the title. Here the strings part is no longer occupied with the area chord, but with a very fast 16th phrase, again well adapted to the quiet verse melody. If these strings are "too much", he can interrupt them by ADVANCED circuitry - and even hold the chord carpet in the UM with his left hand! The Main 2 also sounds a kind of echo voice, which complements the melody.