

1437. Charmaine

Backgrounds Of S. Radic

Mantovani and one of his many different orchestral interpretations of "Charmaine", version that was released in 1951 - on the LP "Hit Parade - Platinum Collection". "Charmaine" is a popular song by Erno Rapee, with lyrics by Lew Pollack. The song was composed in 1926 (although some say it was rather composed in 1913) and published in 1927.

The song was originally composed for the silent movie "What Price Glory?", and Guy Lombardo's recorded version took it to the top of the charts in 1927." "The version of Gordon Jenkins and His Orchestra with Bob Carroll's vocals also entered the charts in 1951. The Bachelor's version reached number 5 in the British charts in 1963." "Strangely enough, in the United States the version of "Charmaine" by the Mantovani Orchestra is often used in comedy to create a comic effect every time a romantic situation occurs.

Annunzio Paolo Mantovani was born on November 15, 1905 and died on March 29, 1980. He was an Anglo-Italian conductor and artist with a light orchestral style known simply as Mantovani." He was an Anglo-Italian conductor and artist with a light orchestral style known simply as Mantovani. The book "Most Successful Simple & British Albums" stated that Mantovani "was Britain's most successful artist before the Beatles...the first artist to sell more than a million stereo albums and that in 1959 he had six albums simultaneously in the "Top 30" of the United States.

Annunzio Paolo Mantovani (1905-1980), better known simply as Mantovani, was an Italian orchestra leader who worked in England and had great success with his own orchestra and style (so-called "cascading strings"). He was born into a musical family. His father was first violinist at the Scala in Milan with Arturo Toscanini and later for many years concertmaster at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden in London, where the family had moved in 1912. "Monty", as he was called by his friends, received violin lessons from his father and studied music and counterpoint at Trinity College of Music for two years. Even after his studies, the family played a major role in the early successes of his "Tipica Orchestra". He even recorded music with his father as a musician in the orchestra and his sister as a vocal soloist.



The theatre organist, arranger and composer *Ronald Binge* also played in one of his early orchestras: His short piece "Sailing By" became a well-known composition, and his Elisabethserenade also contributed to the great success of Mantovani's orchestra. Binge helped Mantovani develop his own style of music, known as cascading strings, based on a reverb effect of overlapping string voices arranged through (i.e. produced without recording technique).

This Mantovani sound was developed for an American order to produce slow waltzes, and this sound became his trademark. Probably the greatest success in this style was the instrumental title Charmaine, composed by Ernö Rapée and Lew Pollack in 1951. Also the interpretation of Greensleeves, a traditional arranged by Binge, was a great success, and Mantovani was so enthusiastic about this title that he even named his residence after it. Long in the billboard charts were 1957 Around The World, 1960 the film theme from The Sundowners and 1961 the theme from Exodus. Countless record releases and concerts made Mantovani a wealthy man.



Slow Waltz, T=80

The musical score is arranged in five staves from top to bottom: Bells, Strings, Guitar, Bass, and Drums. The time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked as T=80. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into two main sections: 'Main 1' and 'Main 2'. 'Main 1' covers the first two measures, and 'Main 2' covers the last two measures. The 'Advanced' section for strings and guitar is indicated by a bracket on the right side of the score. The drum part includes 'Ride-Cymb.' and 'HH-op.' (Hi-Hat open) markings. The bass part shows a simple alternating bass line. The Bells part has a melodic phrase in the 'Main 2' section.

Programming instruction

The "Slow Waltz" presented here was composed in 1951 - a time when drums played only a subtle role as a "metronome". Accordingly, the drum part is also kept very simple - there is no typical waltz lookup at all - but rather a quiet hint of the lookup by "Ride-Cymbal"! On the one in time I set the HH-open with the bass drum. The actual lookup to 2+3 is provided by the two chord parts guitar and strings, which stay in the advanced position and can be switched on or off as needed. In the Main 2 a Bells phrase is added to loosen up the long "Cascading Strings" of the melody. Although the bass can be seen in the graphics as a fifth alternating bass, Mantovani very often only uses the bass-bass - or even the quint-bass - to completely remove the "dance swing" from these slow-vals!