

1439. Chattanooga Choo Choo

Backgrounds Of S. Radic

Chattanooga Choo Choo is a swing title by Mack Gordon, who wrote the lyrics, and Harry Warren, who composed the music. It's about a steam train ride from New York City to Chattanooga in Tennessee. Glenn Miller's recording of the 1941 song was nine weeks number one in the Billboard Hot 100 and a total of 23 weeks in the Top 10.



History. Supposedly, the team of authors wrote the title during a ride on the Birmingham special train of the Southern Railway; at that time Chattanooga was an important junction in the network of US railways. The song comes from the film *Adopted Happiness* (*Sun Valley Serenade*) with Sonja Henie, John Payne, Milton Berle and Joan Davis. It was recorded there by the Glenn Miller band with Tex Beneke and Paula Kelly as well as The Modernaires with Dorothy Dandridge and the Nicholas Brothers against a train backdrop. At the 1942 Oscars, Warren and Gordon were nominated for the best song, but were unable to beat Jerome David Kern and Oscar Hammerstein's *The Last Time I Saw Paris*. "The version released on a 78/min record was recorded on 7 May 1941 for RCA Victor's Bluebird label, with Chattanooga Choo Choo on the B-side and *I Know Why (And So Do You)* on the A-side. She was awarded the Golden Record for 1,200,000 copies sold on February 10, 1942. In the 1990s, a two-channel recording of the film soundtrack was found, allowing stereo reconstruction of the song. In 1996, the recording of Chattanooga Choo Choo by Glenn Miller and His Orchestra on Bluebird, B-11230-B was recorded in the Grammy Hall of Fame.



Cover versions. Cab Calloway and His Orchestra recorded a version of Chattanooga Choo Choo for Conqueror Records (Conqueror 9914) in 1941. In post-war Germany, singer Hans Bardeleben recorded the title with Heinz Both's band. Bill Haley & His Comets released a cover version in 1954. In 1962 the recording of the US pianist Floyd Cramer was represented in the Billboard Hot 100 for eight weeks and advanced to place 36. In 1967 the American band Harpers Bizarre released a cover version that reached number 45 in the US pop charts and number 1 in the Easy Listening charts for two weeks. George Benson recorded a version of the song on his 1968 album *Shape of Things to Come*. A cover version of Steve Lucky & The Rhumba Bums can be heard in the film *Be Cool* (2005).

The song was also recorded twice in German: First recorded in 1947 by Bully Buhlan and Peter Rebhuhn as a train to Kötzschenbroda. The much better known second version from 1983 with the title *Sonderzug nach Pankow* is by Udo Lindenberg. It became popular because of the political allusions to Erich Honecker.



Swing, T=160

Main 1 Main 2

Organ

Guitar

Bass

Drums

small crash
Tamb.

middle crash

BD SD

Programmieranweisung

Dieser swing hier besteht aus zwei nahezu identischen Mains, jedoch mit kleinen aber feinen unterschieden zum Einsatzbereich. Der A-Part des Anfangs klar mit dem Main1, wobei dort nur das Tambourin den erforderlichen Nachschlag spielt - eigentlich als Ersatz für den Swing-Besen, der jedoch im Standard-MIDI-Bereich nicht besonders gut klingt. Auch Small Crash ist hier nur eine Zweitlösung für den normalen Swing-Ablauf mit dem üblichen HiHat-open/closed. Im Main 2 kommt dann zur Nachschlag-Verstärkung die SD (Disco-Snare) hinzu und das "Small-Crash" wird durch "Middle-Crash" insgesamt an Volumen gewinnen. Im oberen Part sieht man den synkopierten Organ-Einsatz, wobei das auch die Bläser sein könnten. Der Rest des Styles, bzw. die Basis mit Walking-Bass und durchgehenden, kurzen Viertel-Schlägen der Gitarre spielt in beiden Mains identisch.