

1423. Paloma Blanca

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"Paloma Blanca" (Spanish for "white dove"), often also called "Una Paloma Blanca", is a song by the Dutch musician George Baker, recorded and released by his band The George Baker Selection. The single was a hit all over Europe and was taken from the group's fifth album of the same name.

The song became the #1 hit on the U.S. Billboard Easy Listening Singles chart on February 14, 1976, reaching a high of #26 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100, #33 on the U.S. Hot Country Singles chart[2] and #10 on the UK Singles chart.

Baker himself was quoted as saying: "...the song is about "a poor South American farmer who works hard all day and then sits on a tree and dreams of being a white bird with his freedom".

Cover versions. The George Baker Selection version of "Paloma Blanca" was discussed in detail after its release in 1975. In Great Britain, where the group "Paloma Blanca" reached number 10 on the charts, the recording of Jonathan King reached number 5 on the charts. King's version was also a hit in Ireland, although his #15 Irish Chart Peak was surpassed by a Dixies cover (with Rory O'Connor) that brought "Una Paloma Blanca" to number 11 on the Irish charts.

Only a few months after the original by George Baker, Serbian singer Boris Bizetic created a cover of the song in Serbian. In South Africa an Afrikaans rendering of "Paloma Blanca" with the title "My klein wit duifie" was a hit for a studio group that was awarded as Tameletjie and reached its chart peak on place 9. A German rendition



of "Paloma Blanca" was a hit for Nina & Mike (de) in Germany (#6) and Austria (#7). In Scandinavia, translated renderings of "Paloma Blanca" for Siw Malmkvist (#8 in Sweden) and Hans Petter Hansen (#7 in Norway) were recorded with an alternative Swedish rendering of Säwes (sv).

A Danish version was recorded by Bjørn Tidmand. In Finland, a localized translation of "Paloma Blanca" was placed 2nd for Katri Helena, who climbed a competing version of Kisu (fi) to 18th place. Finland is also the only obvious territory outside the British Isles that can afford the chart hit status of the Jonathan King version "Una Paloma Blanca", which peaked at 27th place in Finland.

The Finnish version of "Paloma Blanca" was also recorded by Aaron (fi), Jukka Kuoppamäki and Matti ja Teppo. Patricia Lavila (fr) recorded both French and Italian representations of "Paloma Blanca", the first of which was ranked 39th in the French charts.

The song was sung in Belgium by De Strangers as "Oh Mijnen Blauwe Geschelpte" and changed the colour of the bird from white to blue. Also the tone of the song changed, so that it became a mockery of the pigeon sport.

The covers of "Paloma Blanca" were also recorded by Slavko Perovic (Serbian) and in 1976 by Vera Špinarová (cs) (Czech as "Být Sluncem Na Tvých Víckách" with Zdenek Mann) and by Korda György (hu) (Hungarian as "Fehér Galamb").

A Chinese (Mandarin) version of the song is called Bai Lan Ge, ???, with similar lyrics about a free dove. Other versions were by Demis Roussos and Slim Whitman. Bobby Vinton recorded a version that appeared on his 1976 album Serenades of Love.

Party-Disco-Beat, T=130

The musical score is arranged in a system of six staves. From top to bottom, the staves are: Bells (treble clef), Strings (bass clef), Guitar (bass clef), Bass (bass clef), Perc. (bongos, treble clef), and Drums (bass clef). The time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as T=130. The score consists of two measures of music for each instrument. The Bells part features a descending eighth note followed by an ascending eighth note. The Strings part is marked 'Adv.' and shows two chords. The Guitar part features a series of eighth notes. The Bass part features a simple bass line. The Perc. part features a pattern of eighth notes. The Drums part features a pattern of eighth notes, with 'BD' (Bass Drum) and 'DSD' (Disco-Snare-Drum) indicated below the notes. On the right side of the score, there are two vertical arrows labeled 'Main 1' and 'Main 2' pointing upwards, indicating the structure of the arrangement.

Programming instruction

A "Party-Disco-Beat" is announced here, whereby the usual ingredients were still somewhat strengthened: In the drum section the eighths of the "small crash" is immediately noticeable - here a stronger version of the usual HIHAT-open/close combo. The increase of percussion with bongos can be switched to adv. The BD (Bassdrum) on the tone C1 is sufficient - only the DSD (Disco-Snare-Drum) on the tone D1 must be it! The bass plays the fifth alternating bass and the guitar makes an extended eighth phrase with more fullness. The advanced strings deliver a chord carpet over two inversions. So far the arrangement for Main1 - Main2 is ditto with the addition of a fill-in phrase of the bells in the form of descending and ascending eighth chord decompositions with the somewhat delayed use over an eighth pause.