

1434. See You Later Alligator

Backgrounds Of S. Radic

See You Later, Alligator is a rhythm and blues song written in 1950 by Bobby Charles. In the rock 'n' roll version of Bill Haley & His Comets from 1956, the song sold millions of copies and reached number 6 in the US charts. In Europe the song reached 6th place in Great Britain, 7th place in the Netherlands and 4th place in Belgium. The song was Bill Haley's last big hit.

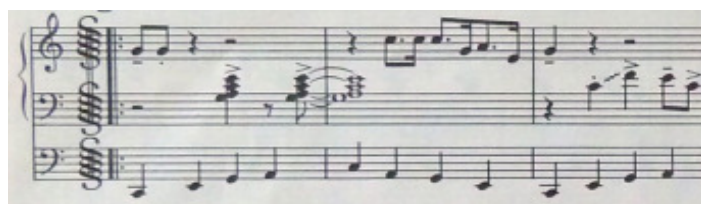
See You Later Alligator was used in the movie "Rock Around The Clock", which is about Bill Haley & His Comets and the triumph of Rock & Roll. The song turned the title into a widespread catchword. The song was covered several times, for example by Dr. Feelgood - and in Germany by Peter Kraus!

Bobby Charles Guidry (1938-2010) was a "white" American R&B singer and composer. He was the author of the Rock'n'Roll classic "See You Later Alligator" and wrote many other hits like "Walking to New Orleans". He got the record contract because of a telephone prelude from the then best-known "black label" Chess-Records, whose boss immediately liked the song - so his following statement is handed down when he met him in person: "You can't possibly be Bobby Charles - but now we can't do anything more - the record is out - and it's a hit!". So Bobby Charles became the only "white" artist on an exclusively black label! Bobby Charles never learned to play an instrument and could neither read nor write notes. He usually recorded his compositions with a tape recorder. If this was not available to him, he sang on his answering machine!

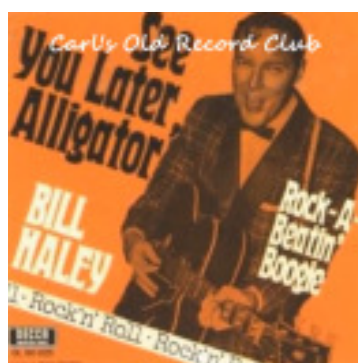


Version FRANZ LAMBERT. The 1977 LP is titled "FL spielt beliebte Evergreens" (FL Plays Popular Evergreens) - it's clear that a rock'n'roll title like "See You Later Alligator" should not be missing in the still popular rock scene! Back in 1977, the organ playing was "live" - you played everything with your hands and feet! Producer Berry Lipman wrote all the organ arrangements and now the following versions are available: Keyboard versions 1+2 with Org.-Vers. 1 by S. Radic and the original Organ-Vers. by B.-Lipman as Organ-Vers. 2. And then the surprise: FL didn't stick 100pro to the B.-Lipman-Vers. but played a lot more - and especially a very nice Pedal-Bass-Solo. I then incorporated this into the Berry Lipman organ version 2 - and also changed the spelling somewhat (triplet form). Here a few bars for comparison:

B. Lipman-Org.-2-Version



S. Radic-Key.-2-Version



Rock'N'Roll, T=165

Adv. Main 1

Adv. Main 2

Programming instruction.

This really unusual Rock'n'Roll programming actually has only one Rock rhythm as Main1. There is the walking bass in the foreground, a guitar with standard rock accompaniment and an organ part that serves as "fill-in" in Adv. mode. Main2, on the other hand, is only the short effect part in improvisation - but since most of the old style devices are aligned to identical bar numbers of the main parts, the Main1 also has to be represented by four bars. In the newer devices, the number of bars does not depend on the part - and then Main1 can only be programmed with two bars!