

JustDino

The official magazine of THE DEAN MARTIN ASSOCIATION

**THE KING OF COOL MEETS
THE STAR-SPANGLED WOMAN**
Dean Martin and Shirley MacLaine

**THE MAN WHO PUT
STEUBENVILLE ON THE MAP**

A famous son and his roots

THEATRICAL NUMBERS

Dean gives his regards to Broadway

DEANA MARTIN SPECIAL

We meet up with Deana and review her live Ohio show.

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Cover photo of Deana Martin taken by Harrison Lavins.



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Just Dino is the exclusive and fully-authorized newsletter published only by us in the UK, and distributed worldwide since November 1960. The Dean Martin Association is totally lionized to the man himself, his life and career. Wherever you live, whoever you are, I dedicate your Association to Dean Martin and to you –as you support us by being a valued member.

Bernard H Thorpe
Co-founder, President (1960-2015) and
Chief Executive (1960-2015)



MEMORY HIVE
.CO.UK

(NBC)

[fdicarlatonio]



As we say good-bye to 2023, and welcome the prosperity of the New Year, I have been left to reflect on the last year, and the impacts that Dean Martin's legacy has had not only on my life, but on the lives of so many others.

Growing up, I was never one that fit in when it came to my taste in music. As a kid, my parents would play all the hits of the 1960s and 70s, and my mother introduced me to the great American crooners such as Dean Martin. So, while my friends were listening to NSYNC or Maroon 5, I was listening to Dean Martin and Bing Crosby.

An interesting aspect of having this musical point of view, was that I was always on the lookout for modern takes on my favorite artists and their works. As I grew up, and even today, I notice more and more that Dean and artists such as him are beginning to have a renaissance that stretches beyond the Christmas season. I have heard Dean's music used in movies, TV shows, and even video games. TV shows make references to his work, and several movie channels have begun to show his westerns again. Modern artists have begun to step forward, such as Michael Bublé and have voiced their admiration and impact that Dean Martin has had on their life and music. Even on social media, Dean's music has become "trending audio," with new, younger audience members being introduced to his music every day.

While many of my parents' generation

feel that Dean's music, as well as his contemporaries, has faded away, I have a very different view.

Just in 2023, Dean Martin's music was featured in five popular television shows, and even in a few films. As of January 4th, 2024, Martin's music has been streamed cumulatively over 3 billion times, with a daily stream rate of over 2 million over Spotify alone.

I have found great hope in Dean's music being used in modern media, and feel that if this trajectory continues, Dean's positive impact on the music and entertainment industries will continue to grow for generations to come.

The past year has brought an enormous amount of personal growth to myself and my platform, as I strengthened my knowledge of Dean and his work.

I attended the 2023 Dean Martin Festival in Steubenville, Ohio for the second time, where I had an incredible experience interacting with fellow Dean Martin fans, and experiencing the town where Dean grew and began his enormous career.

Visiting Steubenville has given me an even greater respect for Dean and the work and dedication it took for him to build the career and success that he is still seeing today, over 100 years later. I look forward to continuing to attend these festivals and watching the number of attendees grow.

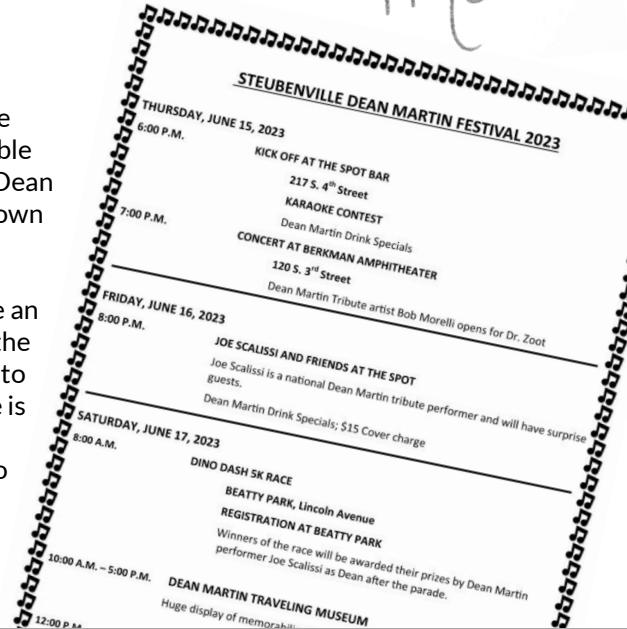
Towards the end of the year, I was given the great privilege of

becoming one of the team of The Dean Martin Association, for which I am so grateful.

I have been given the opportunity to write and educate about Dean and his work, and I know that this opportunity is one I would not have without Bernard, Elliot and my fellow dedicated colleagues at the DMA: Ron, Cindy and Thomas.

As this New Year begins, I look forward to continuing to see Dean's legacy grow and adapt with the changing times.

Wishing blessings, happiness, and health to all in this New Year!



THE DEAN MARTIN ASSOCIATION YEARBOOK 2024

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the dean martin forum

Keep those letters and cards comin' in, folks...

Send your letters and comments to deanmartinassociation.com/contact or via Facebook

> VERONIKA L. FACEBOOK

I want to thank you for all those nice and interesting posts [about Dean] and his work. They are not scandalous or bad!

> MIKE W. EMAIL

I had a chance to meet Deana and Cindy in Columbus, Ohio last [month] and am still kind of in shock from the whole thing. For me, speaking with them was nothing less than life changing. Concerning the life of Dean Martin himself, I naturally defer to Deana as authoritative, but Cindy is without a doubt a treasure to be greatly appreciated. I view and treat them as professionals as well as Pallies. I sense the Association can and have provided the general public, Deana, and other mature persons who genuinely love Dean Martin this impressive information support resource that keeps things going. I've been dedicated to researching Dean Martin from an angle of interest for about five years now as I reconstructed the life of Sharon Tate, and noticed that I grew in understanding when it comes to Dean. I quickly realized from last week's meeting that I can rely on Cindy as being dedicated to integrity. She was chock full of interesting, relevant details.

> LISA M. EMAIL

I recently subscribed to your mailing list and thank you for sending me [JD418]. It was hugely informative and really enjoyable. I sense from all of your articles that you all have a great deal of dedication to Dean Martin and to his times. You clearly respect him too which is so refreshing in today's world of finding the worst in people and declaring it to everyone. I've been a fan of Dean's for many years now and really can't abide those who bad mouth him - yet still say they are fans! The internet is chock full of naysayers purporting to be his admirers. When I came across the Association, I was really taken aback and honestly touched that you have so much admiration and respect for Dean. You are a testament to his legacy and I can see why you've been around since the 1960s.

> COLIN B. EMAIL

I much prefer Frank Sinatra to Dean Martin. Dean didn't really care about his music did he? He just ploughed through a few half-hearted songs and said they were 'ballads'. Frank was the king of the ballads and knew how to sing. Dean was just in his shadow all the time. Watch them on those old concerts and in the movies. Dean just did what Frank told him to do. *[Well, we respect your position that, for you, Frank was better than Dean. In many ways he was a different type of performer and can't truly be compared. Dean nevertheless was dedicated to his career and music, just as Frank was, and always did his best. Dean gave the appearance that he was very laid back and took everything in his stride but it has been well-documented (and not just by us here at the DMA) that this wasn't exactly the case! Ed.]*

> BILL P. EMAIL

I got Bernard Thorpe's discography but please can you explain why it doesn't list those amazing Bear box sets? Seems like either you don't know about them or it's a massive oversight. *[Dean Martin - A Discography lists, in the main, US and UK releases and some compilations of note. We are fully aware of the Bear Family box sets and was very pleased that John Chintala, friend of the DMA and author of the quite superb discography Dean Martin - The Total Entertainer, had some input in them. Bernard's intention with his version of a discography of Dean was to detail recordings, US singles and studio albums because of their significance in his career and to music history in general*

rather than listing endless compilations. It's why Bernard called it A Discography and not The Discography, as he did not want to imply it was definitive or better than other compilers' work, but wanted it to be a complete record of Dean's music as originally produced. Ed.]

> GWEN W. EMAIL

I love Dino! That's all!

> JON T. EMAIL

I'm not a big Dino fan but one of my favorite songs sung by him is "Just In Time" with the singer Judy Holliday, but the version I have on CD is just Dean singing it. Where can I find them both singing it together and why would he have sung it again without her? *[You've probably got THIS TIME I'M SWINGIN'!, Dean's 1960 Capitol Album, or maybe you own a compilation it's on? The version you are looking for is actually from the original Capitol soundtrack BELLS ARE RINGING (also 1960), available wherever music is sold. Dean recorded it as a solo piece mainly because he liked the song and it was a very popular number from the film. Including the duet on his own album would also have led to costs to use Judy as well as the orchestrations by Andre Previn. Nelson Riddle did the arrangements for Dean's solo version. Ed.]* **JD**



[MGM]

meets

The King of Cool

★ THE ★ STAR ★ SPANGLLED ★ WOMAN ★

I'll be honest with you. This article is a love letter to Shirley MacLaine. Yes, unashamedly so. If there was anybody who deserved the moniker The Queen of Cool, it should, in my mind at least, be her.

Admittedly, she may have some unusual opinions, a political leaning, and a belief that some may find quirky, if not strange, but my adoration for her leans towards her lengthy entertainment career as well as her pretty positive outlook on life.

Born Shirley MacLean Beatty on April 24, 1934, she's the older sister of actor Warren Beatty (born Henry Warren Beatty) and first came to the big screen in Alfred Hitchcock's *The Trouble With Harry* (1955). She won a Golden Globe Award for New Star of the Year - Actress, an accolade which put her in the sights of Hal Wallis and Frank Tashlin for a new comedy they were making with Paramount. Shirley undertook a couple of appearances in the CBS variety series *Shower of Stars* the same year.

Dean Martin, meanwhile, had been finding huge success as one half of America's top comedy duo since 1946, having already made thirteen movies with Jerry Lewis. Martin and Lewis' fourteenth vehicle, scheduled for the Fall of 1955, was to co-star Dorothy Malone with whom Dean and Jerry had worked with previously on *Scared Stiff* (1953).

Dorothy's character, a comic book artist, needed a best friend and live model: enter Shirley as Bessie Sparrowbush, an adorably energetic horoscope-obsessed roommate, who falls for comic-book nerd Jerry. Little does Jerry's character realize that his beloved Bat Lady is modelled on Bessie, and remains oblivious for most of the film.

Artists and Models (working title *Rock-A-Bye Baby*) became Martin and Lewis' most successful film at that time, giving Shirley a decent role and cementing her as an idiosyncratic and very talented performer. Her unique rendition of Dean's "Innamorata" while trying her best to seduce a panicked Jerry is one of the highlights of the movie (and as a Martin and Lewis picture, it's one of their best and certainly one of their funniest).

When Frank Sinatra was pulling together a cast for his 1958 picture, *Some Came Running*, he'd already found his Bama Dillert

ELLIOT THORPE TRACES THE INTERTWINING CAREERS OF TWO OF HOLLYWOOD'S GREATEST ICONS.

in Dean Martin. For the fragile role of Ginny, he found Shirley. It would be the second time she'd work with Dean and the first with Frank. She would find herself billed third behind her two male co-stars.

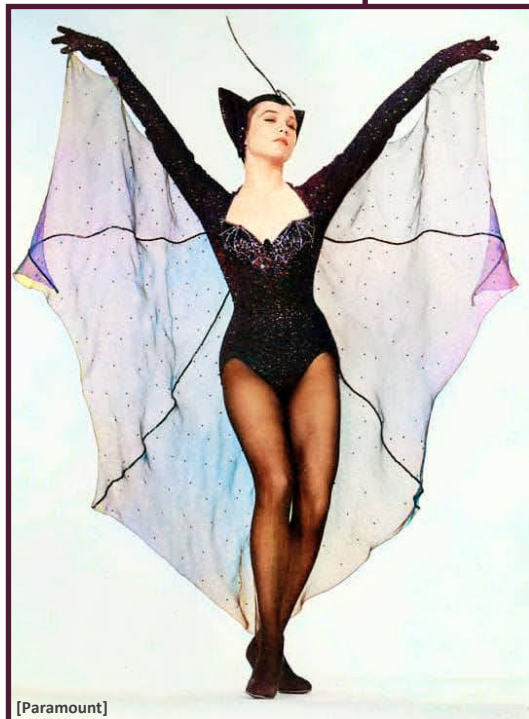
While she was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actress, handling with ease the concise script drawn from James Jones' novel, it was a shame that Dean was never offered a similar chance to win. His portrayal as an affable, terminally-ill gambler was light-years away from anything he was ever asked to do when partnered with Jerry.

Third billing again for Shirley the next time she shared the screen with Dean, in Paramount's hard-hitting *Career* (1959). In a role that was a close cousin to Ginny, Shirley set the screen alight as an alcoholic daughter of an influential Broadway producer. Dean meanwhile was continuing his evolution into a serious—and taken-seriously—actor. The two having much to do opposite Anthony Franciosa, who carried most of the film even though he was second on the poster.

Watching Shirley playing a tipsy woman was always a delight and she reveled in her uncredited cameo in the 1960 Warner Bros. classic *Ocean's 11*. She didn't perform with the rest of the cast, nor any of the Rat Pack, instead swooning over Dean's Sam Harmon in a charming little scene outside a Vegas club. While it added absolutely nothing to the plot, it further qualified her off-screen platonic friendship with Dean, one which took her next to a starring role in *All In A Night's Work* (1961).

This screwball comedy was perfect for the two leads, who both had comedy roots and an unflappable ability to make people smile. Dean was a young playboy inheritor while Shirley was the dizzy wrong-place-wrong-time wife of a conservative veterinarian. Admittedly, the film wasn't overly involving but as a gentle romance, it allowed Dean and Shirley to express their light approaches.

Next up with Dean, Shirley gained top-billing while our man himself was fourth down the list, underneath Robert Mitchum (who himself was subservient to Paul Newman).





[20th Century Fox]



What A Way To Go! is an unashamedly lavish production, commanding a top-tier ensemble cast that wouldn't be unwelcome in an *Expendables* sequel.

This being her twentieth movie by 1964, Shirley had by now created her own on-screen persona: as a beautiful eccentric. Her performance in *What A Way ToGo!* was no different. In fact, it played exactly to her strengths. Typecasting usually indicates an actor is only opted for a certain type of character, yet with Shirley, she has made a career out of determination and eccentricity, perfectly encapsulated by portraying a serial widower desperate to give away her deceased husbands' millions!

Dean played opposite her as a ruthlessly charming retailer mogul who saw in her the freedom he longed for in a wife, rather than someone who was only after his money. (Read Marisa's Movie Moments feature on *What A Way To Go!* in next month's JD!)

After a gap of twenty years, Shirley and Dean would be on the big screen together for a sixth and final time in 1984, for *Cannonball Run II*. It would be Dean's last picture too, although Shirley would go on to make another twenty-seven (and counting, hopefully) in the decades following.

Both the *Cannonball* films are something of a guilty pleasure for me so it was a sheer delight to see Dean and Sammy Davis Jr team up with Shirley and Frank Sinatra. Dean reprises his role as retired racing driver Jamie Blake, convinced to take part in a second madcap sea-to-shining-sea dash, while Shirley plays as one half of a marvellously cliched double-act with Marilu Henner as two stage singers dressed (initially) as nuns.

Maybe not the auspicious ending to Dean's film career but it was enjoyably silly and asked to be nothing more.

Every Little Movement was a TV special (broadcast 12 May 1980 on CBS) starring Shirley that was designed specifically for her in mind, being a celebration of the art of movement (both literally in the case of dance techniques and figuratively, by the way of the "dance" of a relationship between two people). Dean guest-starred and performed a short sketch with her. It was a great turn for Dean and it was clear the affection they had for each other since the 1950s had never waned.

Please follow Shirley here: shirleymaclaine.com. JD

SHIRLEY MACLAINE
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Her body has a language all its own. Her guests' do, too. Whether they're dancing, bouncing, boxing, or elbow bending, there's no concealing every little feeling. See for yourself, in a dazzling special of nonstop entertainment.

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WE'LL BE AT YOUR LOCAL CBS



Cindy Williford looks at

THE MAN WHO PUT *Steubenville* ON THE MAP

So often when we think about Dean Martin, we go from his birthdate of 7 June 1917 to the July of 1946, when he had become a household name.

But what we don't always remember are the true, humble beginnings of Dino Paul Crocetti, an Italian boy who had a dream and who would own that dream one day, who was born in a little town called Steubenville.

Steubenville was the home of many industries such as coal mining, paper mills, glass factories and steel mills. Immigrants from all over the world came to the Ohio Valley making it an area for many nationalities to call home, which went along with the state motto for Ohio 'where you always have a home'.

One of those immigrants, was a young man by the name of Gaetano Alfonso Crocetti, who came to America in 1913. Settling in Steubenville, he took up trade as a barber. Gaetano would wed Angela Barra, an Italian-American who was from Fernwood, Ohio, and together they would start a family.

In the unrest of World War I and much economic hardship for the nation, on the evening of June 7, 1917, a baby boy was born, one that would grow to become an international star, whose legacy still lives on today all across the world. And he would also put the town of Steubenville, Ohio on the map!

It was quite obvious from his childhood, that Dino was passionate about singing and was gifted with a beautiful voice to drive that passion. He had the ability to project his voice in such a way that left his listeners captivated. It has been documented in other writings about Dino, that music was a very important part of his life growing up. He learned the old Italian folk songs as his family gathered on Sunday afternoons. He was known for impromptu times of singing at community functions or to anyone who would take the time to listen to him. Having dropped out of high school in the 10th grade, he was urged by his father that he must get a job. Dino tried his hand in several trades, ranging from a croupier to working in a steel mill. It was a near-accident while working in the steel mill one day that changed his outlook forever, setting him on the path to pursue what he loved most: singing.

His journey to pursue his dreams however, would take him into other regions of the Ohio Valley, to dimly lit venues and shady nightclubs. He would change his name a couple of times along the way before taking the name that he is so famously known for today worldwide, Dean Martin.

As Dean's career began to grow and he became more widely known, he never forgot the small town which had been his foundation. He never forgot the folks who helped him along the way and would always, when given the opportunity, acknowledge that his roots were and would always be Steubenville, Ohio.

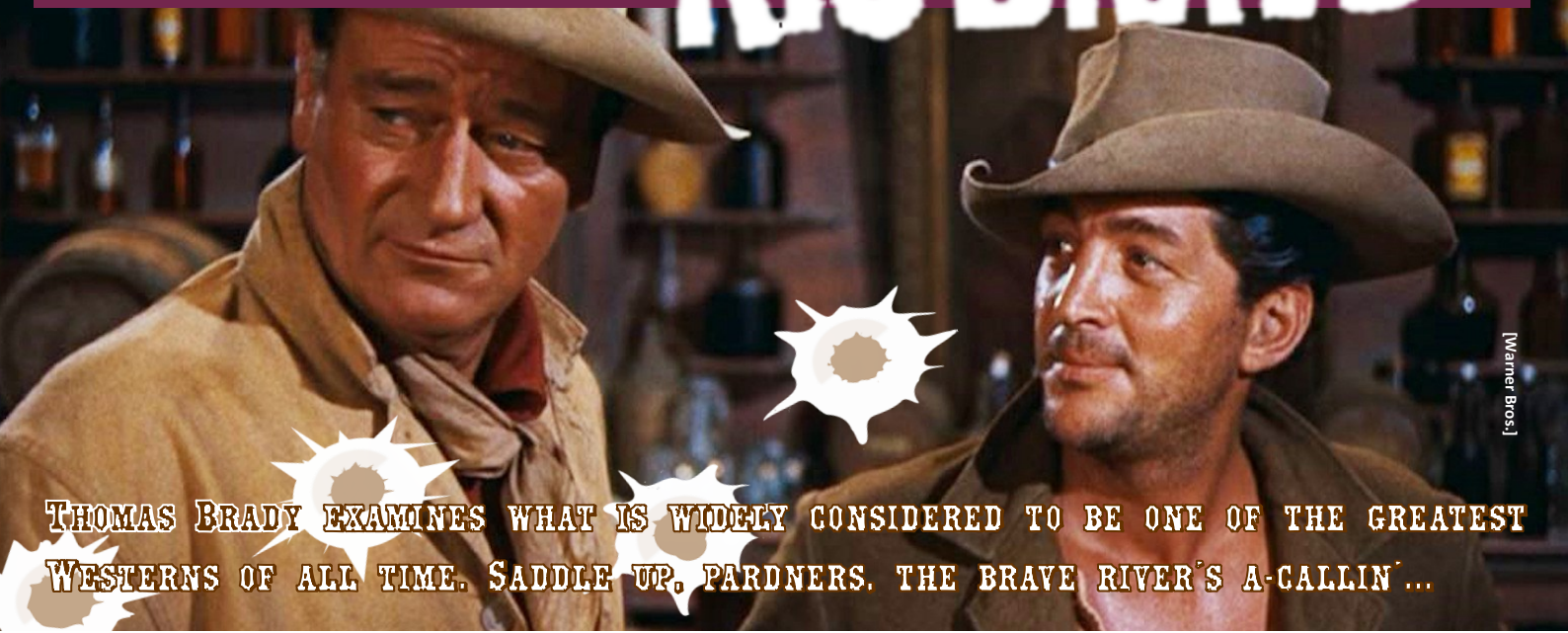
Dean was not one to boast or to parade his successes. In fact, many in the industry questioned why he didn't take things seriously. A very humble man, he simply enjoyed making a living and providing for his family doing what he loved doing, entertaining.

Having moved his family to California in the late 1940s, he would from time to time quietly come back to his hometown to visit friends and play golf. He was secretly generous to hospitals, schools and other charities. He did come back in 1950 to offer his services to help raise funds for underprivileged children. On this particular visit in 1950, there was a welcome parade held in his honor and in association with the visit, it was hailed as Dean Martin Day. In 1968, the town leaders dedicated a stretch of Ohio Route 7 was named Dean Martin Boulevard. Dean became known as Steubenville's favorite son.

But not only did Dean never forget his hometown, the citizens of Steubenville didn't either. After Dean had passed away in 1995, Mayor Domenick Mucci assembled The Dean Martin Committee in 1996, led by Deana and her husband John, with the purpose of establishing an annual festival in honor of the entertainer. This festival has seen a change of leadership over the years and has taken place annually, more or less. The State of Ohio agreed that Dean Martin Day be an official State holiday each year on Dean's birthday: he has the distinction as being the only entertainer to have his own national holiday in the United States.

Deana said, "When people speak of my father, they call him a legend, an icon, and the King of Cool...my father was proud of his vast body of work, but I believe he should also be remembered for his other accomplishments; for standing up for racial prejudice, for co-founding the Muscular Dystrophy Association Telethon, and for his humanitarian contributions, made with the request of anonymity, too numerous to mention."

This little Italian boy was instrumental in his very humble ways, to put a little town called Steubenville on the map. Don't believe me? Google 'what is Steubenville Ohio famous for?' **JD**



[Warner Bros.]

THOMAS BRADY EXAMINES WHAT IS WIDELY CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE GREATEST WESTERNS OF ALL TIME. SADDLE UP, PARTNERS. THE BRAVE RIVER'S A-CALLIN'...

It's no secret that Dean Martin was a huge fan of westerns. The Wild West really seemed to capture the heart of Dino who owned ranches and loved horses. So, it was only ever a matter of time before Dean would appear in a serious Western movie.

And boy oh boy, did he pick an excellent western to appear in.

Rio Bravo is the story of Sheriff John T. Chance (John Wayne) who happens to arrest the brother of a powerful rancher by the name of Nathan Burdette (John Russell). With the somewhat helpful hands of his two deputies, Dude (Dean Martin) which the film's poster described as '...the ragged woman-wrecked castoff', and Walter Brennan as Stumpy, an old jailor with a heavy limp, Chance needs to keep Joe Burdette locked up in his jail for over six days until the marshal arrives in town. But obviously Nathan has different ideas and will not stop at murder to get his brother out.

Some regard Dean's portrayal of drunkard Dude as his finest performance and, in honesty, it is not hard to see why. Although Dean's persona with the public was that of a man who likes a drink and is always a bit tipsy, the reality was far from this. Dean rarely drank and famously hated to party. However, he encapsulated the character of struggling Dude who, thanks to the doings of a girl, turned to the bottle and became washed up. At the beginning of the movie, Dude aka 'Borrachón' which translates from Spanish to 'drunkard', is seen in a saloon and is so desperate for a drink, that when a patron asks if he wants a drink and teases him by throwing the silver dollar in to a spittoon for Dude to fish out, Dude starts to oblige but Sheriff John Chance stops him before he makes a complete fool

of himself.

It is a sad situation that we see Dude in. Throughout the movie we see him struggling to kick his alcohol addiction, but we also see the glimmers of just how good he used to be. One such demonstration is after character Pat Wheeler is gunned down in the street, Dude and Chance follow the shooter into a saloon. After Dude seemingly struggles to locate the shooter amongst the tight-lipped patrons, he suddenly whips around and shoots the assassin dead from a hiding spot in the rafters.

Like anyone struggling with alcohol, he has his ups and downs. A low point occurs after Dude lets the Burdette gang get the better of him and tie him up: he begins to spiral and loses all his confidence again. After having his nerves blown when Stumpy nearly shoots him dead, and then getting bested by Burdette's men, Dude wants to resign. He is suffering from the shakes and thinks he is of zero use.

The chemistry between the fatherly Chance and lowly Dude is very engaging. Dean Martin and John Wayne have some great scenes together and I believe that Dean having to act opposite Wayne brought out the best in him. One almost gets the feeling that Chance has seen Dude act that way one too many times and seems to know what the outcome will be with Dude.

The major turning point for Dean's character is when he is just a moment away from downing a shot of whiskey and letting the younger, stronger, faster Colorado (Ricky Nelson) take his spot as deputy, the haunting music of 'El Degüello' comes breezing through the window. It seems to bring all the memories back to Dude of why he started in the first place and how he almost forgot who he was. Without spilling a drop, Dude pours the shot back into the bottle.

The next scene we get the pleasure of hearing Dean singing as Dude. I enjoy that the singing scene does not come across forced which can be very easily done with a singer in a movie. Dude is relaxed and sings "My Rifle, My Pony, And Me" with Ricky Nelson in duet and on the guitar. Dude seems to have regained his confidence and feels determined that the worst of his withdrawal symptoms are behind him.

Even after Dude is once again kidnapped and taken hostage by the Burdette gang, he does not let it ruin his spirits. They use Dude as a trade for Joe and while they walk past each other on the exchange, Dude lunges and Joe and takes him to the floor. It shows his character has truly changed and that he is sharp and knew exactly what to do. After an explosive shootout, Sheriff Chance and his companions come out on top and take the Burdette gang into custody.

The movie was a huge success and the box office reigning in \$5.75million. In 2014 the film was selected for preservation in the National Film Archives by the Library of Congress such as it's popularity and cultural significance. **JD**

Produced and directed by Howard Hawks Rose from a script by Jules Furthman and Leigh Brackett, based on the short story by B H McCampbell. Cinematography by Russell Hartan. Music by Dimitri Tiomkin. Released by Warner Bros., 4 April 1959.



deana martin

TAKING ON THE MANTLE



cheers,
pallies!

MARISA LAVINS REVIEWS
DEANA MARTIN IN OHIO.
PHOTOS BY **HARRISON LAVINS**.

As a lifelong admirer of Dean Martin and his work, I am always on the hunt for events that pay tribute to his music and showmanship, so when I heard that Deana Martin was going to be performing just a mere three hours away from where I live, I knew I had to make the journey.

Tucked away on a rural road in Columbus, Ohio, the Valley Dale Ballroom was once a popular venue at the height of the swing era in the 1940s and 1950s. The ballroom once hosted the greatest artists of the 20th Century, including Glenn Miller, Frank Sinatra, and of course Dean Martin.

Now, nearly 60 years after the apex of the venue's success, the ballroom has been remodeled and restored to its original glory. This space, holding the grace and ambience of the golden era of music and culture, was the perfect setting for Deana Martin to take the stage and pay tribute to her father, Dean Martin.

Deana Martin held two concerts during her appearance at Valley Dale on 15 and 16 December. I attended the first date, which was a matinee that coincided with her weekly Deana Martin Live streaming performances.

Upon entering the Valley Dale, I was greeted with a Christmas ambience, with holiday ornaments and ribbons hanging from the ceiling. The stage was adorned with Christmas lights and garland, and the band stand was set, with Deana's name proudly painted on the music stands. The audience at this performance was filled with not only admirers of Deana's, but fans of Dean Martin as well, with some audience members wearing costume pieces and shirts paying tribute to Dean Martin and his films. As we waited for Deana to take the stage, we mingled and shared stories of our journeys to the venue, as well as our excitement at seeing Deana Martin performing live.

Deana entered the stage and greeted the audience with a smile and, echoing the classic Dean Martin way, saying "Hiya Pallies" to her attentive audience.

Standing proudly, and with a martini in her hand, the show was ready to begin. Deana



was supported by a big band ensemble, led by her music director and arranger on the piano.

The set list of filled with the classic popular songs of the 1950s, including "I Got The World On A String", "Volare", and "(I'd Like to Get You on a) Slow Boat to China". She also sang a variety of Christmas songs to get the audience in the holiday spirit.

Deana paid tribute to her father's infamous performance style by remaining relaxed and carefree, and by telling jokes in between sets. Deana and her husband John, who was seated just off stage, maintained a playful banter and sharing stories about their friends and followers.

In addition, the format of her show was reminiscent of *The Dean Martin Show*, including the cards and letters segment, where comments from Deana's fans were read.

While much of the show was dedicated to her father, Deana has her own, unmistakable style that cannot go unnoticed.

Growing up during the height of the Rock n' Roll era, and with her favorite artists in her youth being The Beatles, and even Elvis, Deana's song choices and style reflect the music she experienced during her life.

While she pays tribute to her father through singing his songs, and the songs of those that influenced him such as The Mills Brothers, she also dedicated a large portion of her concert to songs that influenced her through her life. Deana brings her own personal touches to her songs by singing on the beat rather than behind the beat as Dean did. In addition, Deana sings in more of a 'straight' tone, while Dean would glissando or scoop up to certain notes.

As the concert ended, I was left with a joyous experience and showcase of love from a daughter to her father through music, laughter, and the warmth that the holidays offer.

After the concert, it was announced that Deana would be holding a meet

and greet where audience members could have her sign memorabilia and chat with her about the concert.

As I waited in line, with her book in my hand to be autographed, I was warmed to see the love and care she takes into speaking to every audience member, and genuinely enjoying the conversations she was having.

I was also inspired by the dedication she has in keeping her father's legacy alive, particularly in her vinyl record selections and formatting. While signing someone's record for them, she proudly showed her fans the photo that she included inside the vinyl of her and her father, stating it was one of her favorite photos of them.

When I approached the table, she greeted me with a smile and a hug, and happily conversed with me about my journey to the concert and how much she enjoyed performing for us. She also was gracious in listening to me explain the impact her father has had on my musical life, and I am very appreciative of the time she took to speak to me.

I truly enjoyed Deana's performance, and highly recommend her concerts to anyone, as she gives a fun, relaxed, and beautiful concert experience. **JD**



Above: Marisa with Deana Martin, December 2023
Below & previous: the audience gathers at the Valley Dale Ballroom, Columbus, Ohio



making spirits bright

CINDY WILLIFORD REVIEWS
DEANA MARTIN IN OHIO.
PHOTOS BY KIM JOHNSON.

Dean Martin's live show, which I saw with Marisa on 15 December 2023 in the Valley Dale Ballroom, was filled with the same energy and passion as are her weekly shows, which can be viewed on various media outlets.

To have a real live performance for this show however, was quite special. Her presentation of song and interaction with the audience was everything you would expect, if not more.

She was accompanied by Rick Brunetto and His 18-Piece Orchestra along with her Director, Rick Krive. Her husband, John Griffeth, was also present working the monitors and providing a laugh every once in a while. Deana sang many of the songs from her album *WHITE CHRISTMAS*, as well as non-seasonal songs from her albums and from her dad's collection on this date.

For the concert, which was a sold-out show on 16 December, it was a very special evening which began with a meal and then about 1 ½ hours, if not more, of music and laughter. She sang classics such as "White Christmas", her duet with Andy Williams (on video) as well as the duet "True Love" with her dad (again on video), sharing with us the moment when she was at Capitol Records to record the latter. She said that when she heard her dad's voice come through the headset, she could barely hold back the tears.

Much of the same feeling was experienced by many on Saturday evening as she sang this beautiful song with her dad, as a slideshow which John had put together was shown.

Standard Christmas songs such as "I'll Be Home for Christmas", "The Christmas Song", "Please Come Home for Christmas" and "Silver Bells" were in the lineup of songs. She sang many of Dean's classic Christmas songs such as "Marshmallow World" and "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!", but she also included his regular songs such as "Memories Are Made of This" and "Slow Boat to China", as well as songs from her own albums.

She shared beautiful stories of her childhood and growing up in the Martin home, one memory in particular of attending her Dean's shows in Vegas. She said, "My dad would introduce his seven children...and ask me to 'stand up so the folks can see how beautiful you are'. I knew then that one day I wanted to stand in front of an audience and sing for people like you."

She also shared the experience of driving up to Vegas and all of the Martins were eager to see how the marquee would be styled. Would it read all of the names of the Rat Pack or would it read DEAN MARTIN - maybe Frank - maybe Sammy? Or hearing the announcer say "Ladies and gentlemen, the Sands Hotel proudly presents to you straight from the bar, DEAN MARTIN! I remember Las Vegas like it was yesterday."

Deana said too that "Christmas was more than an event in the Martin household. We would have Christmas carolers (Rosemary Clooney, Les Brown, and Jo Stafford to name a few) who would come by and sing. We would invite them in and then from there we would go house to house. Because the older folks in the group were offered hot toddys, by the time it was over we were called the 'Hymn and Hangover Carolers'!"

One of the many comments we read on our Facebook page about Dean has to do with his vocal ability. Deana shared a story of a conversation she had with Frank Sinatra and when she asked him how he achieved his tone. Frank answered, "It's all in the breath. Your father was just a natural."

From time-to-time, Deana would share words of wisdom that Dean said to her over the years. He was a strong believer in honoring those who had wrote the songs, which is just one of those beautiful attributes of him that we all admire and adore. He always told her, "Treat people the way you want to be treated, and you'll be fine."





Deana's first album, *MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS*, was released in 2006 and contains many of the standard songs her father sang over the years. The album stayed in the Top 10 for 40 weeks. She has since released four other albums, *VOLARE* (two versions), *WHITE CHRISTMAS* and *SWING STREET*, all of which have been chart toppers. Her Christmas album has become a seasonal item, hitting the Top 10 since its release in 2011. All are available where Music is sold.

In addition to her recording career, March 2020 saw the launch of her online 'Live Show', held straight out of her living room every month. It's shown on various media outlets including YouTube. As of January 5, 2024, she has had hosted 199 editions and we highly recommend it.

In 2015, she wrote the memoir *Memories Are Made of This*, which is available wherever books are sold. **JD**

Clockwise from left:
Deana Martin meets and greets her fans;
live on stage; Cindy and Marisa;
Cindy and John Griffeth



The DMA Christmas Quiz Answers

- 1. Q.** Dean Martin was born June 7, 1917, 319 South Sixth Street, Steubenville, Ohio at 11.55pm. What was his birth name? **A.** Dino Crocetti
- 2. Q.** Dean made his First Holy Communion on May 15, 1927 and was Confirmed on April 30, 1928 at St. Anthony's Church. What name did he take as his confirmation name? **A.** Paul
- 3. Q.** Dean was in the Boy Scouts and performed in many Minstrel Shows in Steubenville, playing what instrument? **A.** Snare
- 4. Q.** Elvis Presley's favorite singer was Dean Martin. Who was Dean's favorite singer? **A.** Bing Crosby
- 5. Q.** What was Dean's favorite color? **A.** Blue
- 6. Q.** Dean had two favorite pasttimes. One was watching old Westerns. What was the other? **A.** Playing golf.
- 7. Q.** What was Dean's favorite food, besides Italian? **A.** Spanish
- 8. Q.** The Dean Martin Show started in 1965. What year did it end? **A.** 1974
- 9. Q.** On August 15, 1964, Dean Martin knocked a famous group out of the #1 spot with his song "Everybody Loves Somebody". Name the group. **A.** The Beatles
- 10. Q.** Dean fought as an amateur welterweight boxer and prizefighter under what name? **A.** Kid Crochet
- 11. Q.** Dean Martin pledged for a Fraternity in 1934, becoming a member in 1935. What Frat was it? **A.** Theta Chi Alpha
- 12. Q.** What was Dean's favorite song when he lived in Steubenville? **A.** Blue Moon
- 13. Q.** Dean Martin was in a band with Helen and Mario Camerlengo. What was their band's name? **A.** The Gondoliers
- 14. Q.** When Dean was in the Boy Scouts, he got into a fist-fight with Archie DiAngelo and received a black eye. Did he win or lose the fight? **A.** He lost!
- 15. Q.** What color were Dean's eyes? **A.** Brown
- 16. Q.** What year was Dean honored with a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award? **A.** 2009

Thank you to everyone who entered the competition—the quiz will be back in JD430!



JUNE IN JANUARY by THOMAS BRADY

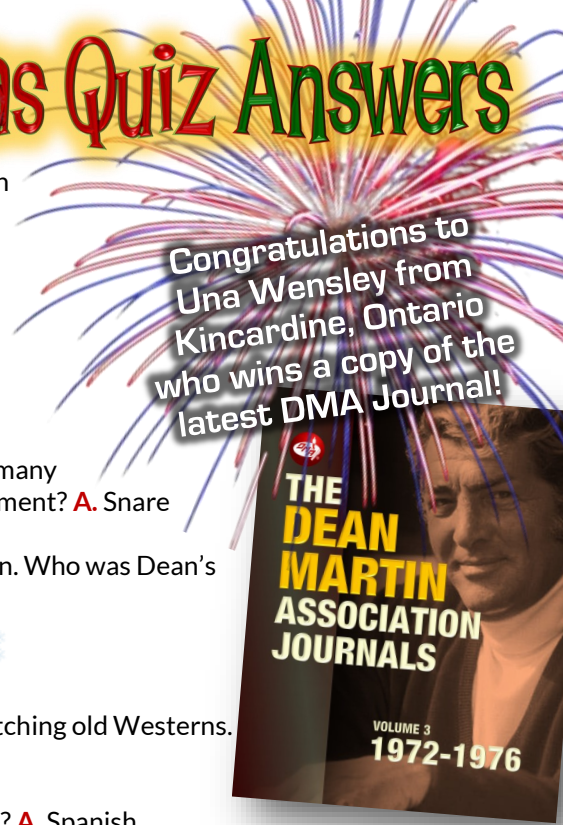
The turning of the year brings us in to January and what better song to focus on than "June in January". This beautiful song was the collaboration of composer Ralph Rainger and lyricist Leo Robin and was first introduced to world by Bing Crosby in the 1934 movie *Here is My Heart*.

On 4 August 1959, Dean recorded his version for Capitol. It was featured on his album *A WINTER ROMANCE* which came out 16 November that same year, becoming *Billboard's* 'Spotlight Winner of the Week'. The song obviously became a hit with Dean personally as he sung it many times at his concerts albeit always joking around because, of course, if you want to hear him '...sing proper, you buy an album...album!'

Like with any sweet, love song Dean sings, this melodic tune lends itself perfectly to his smooth, warm voice.

The arrangement by Gus Levene is simple but has some wonderful accompaniment from the violins and later in the song Dean is accompanied by a vocal chorus which really makes it feel wintery.

There are no hints to Christmas, it's just a sweet song about winter and that feeling of warmth in your heart when you're in love. **JD**



Dino's regards to

CINDY WILLIFORD TRACES SONGS OF BROADWAY AS RECORDED AND PERFORMED BY DEAN MARTIN

As I began researching the topic of this article, I came across this quote from Yellowbrick: 'Music has the power to evoke emotions and create a deeper connection with the audience'.

And I believe that we can all agree, if anyone could evoke emotion and create a deeper connection with his audience, it was Dean Martin.

If you were to scroll down a discography of Dean Martin, going all the way back to the beginning of his career, you might be surprised at what you'd find. You may come across some ragtime, a little jazz, a handful of ballads and of course our Country & Western songs just to name a few.

But as you research these songs individually, you might be surprised to know that many of the songs Dean sang throughout his career, not just in the early years, were songs which were first performed on Broadway. That's right. Many of the tunes we enjoy listening to him sing have roots to Broadway.

One of the greatest Broadway songs that Dean sang was "Some Enchanted Evening" from *South Pacific* (1949). It was one of many songs of that he performed either on *The Martin and Lewis Show* or as a selection on *The Dean Martin Show*. The song was composed by one of the greatest Broadway composers, Richard Rodgers, with the lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II.

In addition to Rodgers, Dean performed the music of Irving Berlin, Frederick Loewe, Alan Jay Lerner, Jule Styne, Dorothy Fields, Jerome Kern, Frank Loesser, Adolph Green and Lorenz Hart just to name but a few.

Before we dive in and discuss the songs associated with those Broadway musicals, we must remember that what mattered most in a musical, was of course, the music. It was of utmost importance for it to be catchy enough to get the attention of the audience. The different types of songs in a musical range from solos to ballads to big full-cast production numbers.

While I do not have the method to the madness of song selection Dean chose or were suggested to him and for him, I can tell you that as I review and research his music, a vast majority of the songs he recorded had some sort of chart history, some

regular, some Broadway. I have heard him say repeatedly on some song intros, that he did review the latest charts and he would 'spin' some records, listening to the latest and greatest songs. He would also occasionally listen to the radio in his car while driving, make a note of the song and go tell his producer he wanted to record it.

Something else that I believe is worthy of mentioning, is that many, many of his songs had already been around for twenty to even fifty years before he put it to the mic.

Of the top Broadway shows of all time, there were five which had songs in them that Dean either recorded, performed or both. They included *My Fair Lady* ("I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face" and "On The Street Where You Live"). In *South Pacific*, there was "Younger Than Springtime" (as well as "Some Enchanted Evening"). From *Guys and Dolls*, Dean recorded "Fugue for Tinhorns" with Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby. From *Kiss Me Kate*, Dean recorded "Bianca" and finally, from *Annie Get Your Gun*, "Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better", which was performed on *The Martin and Lewis Show*.

Guys and Dolls and *Kiss Me Kate* were two of three Broadway musicals chosen by Sinatra to feature on his REPRISÉ MUSICAL REPERTORY THEATRE series where Dean was involved. The first in the series, *Finian's Rainbow*, had Dean performing "If This Isn't Love". (The third in the series, *South Pacific*, didn't include Dean but, as mentioned above, he did cover some songs elsewhere.)

"Standing on The Corner" is from *The Most Happy Fella* (1956). Dean's version entered the Hot 100 Singles Chart on May 9, 1956 where it peaked at No. 29 and remained in the charts for 15 weeks.

Interestingly, there are a small handful of Broadway songs he performed which dated back to the early 1900s, for example "Glowworm" which is from the 1907 show *The Girl Behind The Counter*. Another song from that era was "Cuddle Up A Little Closer" (*Three Twins*, 1908). Other early years songs include "Waiting For the Robert E Lee", "I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles", "Rock-A-Bye Your Baby", "You Made Me Love You" and "Look For the Silver Lining".

As I mentioned earlier, many of these Broadway songs experienced Chart success from the original artists: "You Made Me Love You" charted as the No. 1 song of 1913, while "The Ballad of Mack the Knife" charted as the 3rd most popular song of 1928. "I Can't Give You Anything But Love" peaked at No. 2 in 1928.

Other songs which originated from Broadway which Dean performed include "Brother Can You Spare Me A Dime", "Let's Put Out the Lights", "Where or When", "Mr. Wonderful", "April in Paris", "Dinah", "Red Sails in The Sunset" and "Til the Real Thing Comes Along".

While many are more accustomed to his music from the Reprise years, it is quite interesting to see how far back in time many of his songs do originate from.



As I wrote this article, my mind kept going back to a comment Dean made in an interview with James Darren. Dean said, 'I like doing everything. I can do everything. I can't do it as good as everybody. I do it as good as I can and I enjoy it. They liked it for all these years, so why should I change anything?'

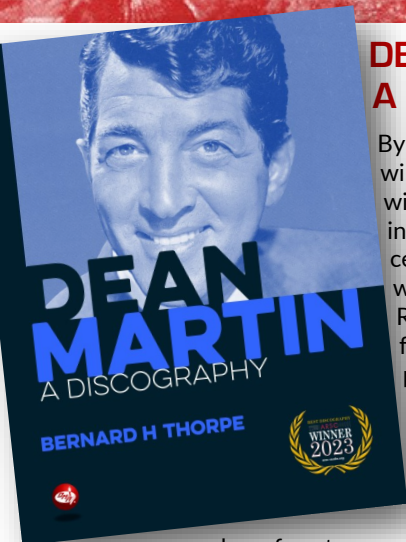
I believe his comment applies to the songs he sang throughout his career.

And, as the Yellowbrick quote surmises, if anyone could evoke emotion and create a deeper connection with his audience through music, it was Dean Martin. JD



Meanderin'

News, events and dates for your diary.



DEAN MARTIN - A DISCOGRAPHY

By the time you read this, the award-winning *Dean Martin - A Discography* will have finally been made available in hardback for the very first time to celebrate its author's quite wonderful achievement. Revised and amended with a foreword by current DMA president Elliot Thorpe, it details Dean's complete studio recording career up until 1985, with information about notable US and UK compilations that have appeared over the years. It also reproduces

a number of contemporary advertisements that were exclusive for record dealers.

Dean Martin - A Discography was the winner of the 2023 Award for Excellence in Historical Recorded Sound Research: 2023 Best Discography in Research in Rock or Popular Music. This was in recognition of Bernard's "...exceptional achievement and significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge of the history of recorded sound..." Buy it now from Amazon and wherever books are sold online.

DEANA MARTIN

Deana continues her live-streamed shows every Friday on various social platforms, including YouTube. They are interactive and you can drop comments in real time. [Take a look.](#)

THE DEFINITIVE RAT PACK

The Definitive Rat Pack continues its UK tour through January with a whirlwind stop in Birmingham before returning to its residency at Boisdale in London's famous Canary Wharf. [Visit their website for full details.](#)

SWINGIN' SINATRA SUNDAY!

On 5 May 2024, in Avon-by-the-Sea, NJ, all things Sinatra are being celebrated. With guest speakers and live entertainment, you can be sure of a swingin' good time. [More details here.](#) For tickets, email sand3737@gmail.com.

THE RAT PACK SWINGIN' AT THE SANDS

Featuring stars from London's West End, this stylish, fully-choreographed show has something for everyone. After their standing-ovation success at the Adelphi Theatre last month, the trio hits the road on a national UK tour with seven dates scheduled so far. [Visit their website for full details.](#)

JOE SCALISSI

Joe heads to Niagara Falls this coming April for the annual Elvis Presley convention. He will be singing as Dean Martin over two days. He will also be performing across the US too.

[Details of his appearances can be found here.](#)



NIAGARA FALLS ELVIS FESTIVAL

Meanwhile, the festival itself (licenced by Elvis Presley Enterprises) will be at the Greg Frewins Theatre for four days from 18 April 2024. For more details about the event, [visit its website.](#) [Buy your tickets here.](#)

JD

NEXT ISSUE...

The Rat Pack

- ◇ Its influences
- ◇ Its legacy
- ◇ Its ambassadors

plus

Dean at the Tucson Open

Issue 420 - out 9 February 2024

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