

SIR 373 If I Ruled The World

vocal by: Paul Bristow

Release Date: Vinyl, MP3 and CD – 2009 / 06

Singing Call MS-48

Original artist: Harry Secombe

Hanhurst's Best Seller listing
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ORIGINAL MUSIC DETAILS: WRITER: Leslie Bricusse, Cyril Ornadel
PUBLISHERS: Chappell & Co. OBO Chappell Music Ltd.

The song "If I Ruled the World" was originally from the 1963 West End musical *Pickwick* (based on Charles Dickens' "The Pickwick Papers"), where the song is sung by the character "Samuel Pickwick", when he is mistaken for an election candidate and called on by the crowd to give his manifesto. The song was a U.K. chart hit in 1963 for Sir Harry Secombe and has been performed by many other singers, notably Tony Bennett (who had a U.S. chart hit with it in 1965), James Brown, and Stevie Wonder.

With the help of Doug Bennett, who provided the music for this release (see below) we managed to give this track an orchestral sound reminiscent of the way that it would have originally been performed. To make it "Square-Dance-able" we had to speed it up a little, so it becomes a "ballad" with a "faster feel"; somewhat unusual but – in the final analysis – quite effective. The sentiment of the song is quite beautiful and the track builds to a terrific crescendo that should make it a "crowd pleasing - showtune"!

Additional Lyrics:

If I ruled the world
Every day would be the first day of spring
Every heart would have a new song to sing
And we'd sing of the joy every morning would bring

If I ruled the world
Every man would be as free as a bird
Every voice would be a voice to be heard
Take my word we would treasure each day that occurred

My world would be a beautiful place Where we would weave such wonderful dreams
My world would wear a smile on its face Like the man in the moon has when the moon beams

If I ruled the world
Every man would say the world was his friend
There'd be happiness that no man could end
No my friend, not if I ruled the world

Every head would be held up high
There'd be sunshine in everyone's sky
If the day ever dawned when I ruled the world

Where, When and Who produced the music:

I am very happy to tell you that the music for this release was created and recorded – as a special commission – by our very good friend Doug Bennett of Global Music Productions.

When Paul Bristow took over production of new music, at the start of the new millennium, Doug offered to provide any assistance that we needed.

Usually we record in Nashville, once a year in September (or later), which can delay the production of new tunes – some of which require a "faster" production. Doug has much easier access to musicians, at short notice, than we do – so his offer was very helpful, when needed a "quick" turn-a-round.

Doug's musical production is based on extensive discussions with us and is at the direction of Paul Bristow; in some cases together with the artist that originally suggested the tune and who will record the vocal. We specify the instrumentation that we would like and Doug acts as the "Studio Director".

I believe that we manage to take the excellent sound of Global and combine it with the musical ideas of Sting and Snow to achieve some pretty fantastic results!