

56 The Platters

The 1950's and early '60's were indeed heavenly when the Platters sang. Lead singer Tony Williams had an absolutely incredible tenor voice, and the rest of the group chimed in with wonderful low-key doo-wop sounds.

With their first Mercury record, "Only You," the Platters reached number five; and their #1 follow-up, "The Great Pretender" cemented their position as one of the greatest ever vocal groups. Their rendition of "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," strings and all, is also one of the great recordings of the era.

Today many groups are using the Platters name, but none have any original members, and none of them can come close to the real thing. Tony died much too young at age 64 in August, 1992.

The other original Platters were: David Lynch, second tenor (died in 1981 at age 52); Paul Robi, baritone (died in 1989 at age 57); Herbert Reed, bass; Zola Taylor, alto.

The Platters top ten hits were: "Only You" (5), "The Great Pretender" (1), "The Magic Touch" (4), "My Prayer" (1), "Twilight Time" (1), "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" (1) & "Harbor Lights" (8).



The Great Pretender

G D G G7 C G > G7
 Oh yes, I'm the Great Pretender, pretending I'm doing well
C D G C G D G > D
 My need is such, I pretend too much, I'm lonely but no one can tell
G D G G7 C G > G7
 Oh yes, I'm the great pretender, adrift in a world of my own
C D G C G D G > G7
 I play the game, but to my real shame, you've left me to dream all alone
C G G7
 Too real is this feeling of make believe,
C G D
 Too real when I feel what my heart can't conceal
G D G G7 C G > G7
 Oh yes, I'm the great pretender, just laughing and gay like a clown
C D G C
 I seem to be, what I'm not, you see,
G D B7 G D G > G7
 I'm wearing my heart like a crown, pretending that you're still around
C G G7
 Too real is this feeling of make believe,
C G D
 Too real when I feel what my heart can't conceal
G D G G7 C G > G7
 Oh yes, I'm the great pretender, just laughing and gay like a clown
C D G C G D B7
 I seem to be, what I'm not, you see, I'm wearing my heart like a crown,
G D B7
 Pretending that you're still around,
G D G
 Pretending that you're still around

