

Press Release

Date: 7th September 2020

Songwriter-Composer, Producer and Author Mitch Murray CBE Commemorated on a Colourful and Vibrant Set of Ten Stamps

Mitch Murray's Top Ten Stamp Set Features His New Composition 'The Mannin Suite' and is Currently Only Available Via This Stamp Collection



The life and achievements of Isle of Man resident Mitch Murray CBE are celebrated by the Isle of Man Post Office in a set of ten dynamic stamps to be issued 16th September 2020.

Songwriter-Composer, Producer and Author Mitch Murray CBE, whose career spans sixty years, has lived on the Isle of Man since 1978. Throughout his songwriting career his hits topped the charts and were performed by bands like Gerry and the Pacemakers ('How Do You Do It?' and 'I Like It'), Georgie Fame ('Ballad of Bonnie and Clyde'), Paper Lace ('Billy Don't Be A Hero') and Tony Christie ('Avenues and Alleyways', 'Las Vegas' and 'I Did What I Did For Maria'). With Freddie and The Dreamers he had his first American number one hit: 'I'm Telling You Now'.

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In 1971 he founded SODS – The Society Of Distinguished Songwriters whose members include Don Black, Mike Batt, Gary Barlow, Sir Tim Rice, Tony Hatch, Justin Hayward, Barry Mason, and 40 more superb British songwriters whose music continues to thrill the world with the greatest songs, film scores and musicals.

Since his rendition of ‘Down Came The Rain’, Mitch has built up a reputation for comedy in many areas, including broadcasting, after-dinner speaking and a series of best-selling books on the subject of humorous speechwriting. In 2019 he was made a Commander Of The British Empire (CBE) for services to music.

In a world first, Mitch Murray’s new composition ‘The Mannin Suite’, an homage to the Isle of Man’s legendary Fairy Bridge, will be released first and exclusively, for a limited period, ‘Zappar-access-only’ via this stamp collection. This is a free added content for the people who own the stamps and will premiere on issue date 16th September 2020.

As a special limited edition, a 28 page prestige booklet about Mitch Murray and his outstanding career features the stamps as well as a bonus four track CD-EP with four special intros recorded by the man himself and will have a certificate of authenticity signed and numbered by Mitch.

Mitch Murray CBE, said *“This fabulous collection, issued by the Isle of Man Post Office, represents my career in all its aspects, and covers a period of sixty years. It’s an honour I could never have imagined receiving.”*

Chris Raynor of Paper Lace said *“The Paper Lace success was due to Mitch Murray & Peter Callander...without Mitch’s commercial & catchy songs the world may never have heard of the band.”*

Maxine Cannon, General Manager Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, said: *“It is a real privilege for us to work with Mitch Murray and to be able to commemorate his career so far with this dynamic and vibrant stamp collection. His many achievements are an impressive collection of success and we are proud to feature them on this very special stamp collection together with a world first: a new musical composition released via a stamp issue!”*

‘Mitch Murray’s Top Ten’ collection includes a set of ten stamps, a Presentation Pack, a First Day Cover, a Sheet Set and 28 page Prestige Booklet limited edition with 4 track CD can be ordered from www.iompost.com/mitchmurray.

-ENDS-

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Technical Specifications

Issue title: Mitch Murray's Top Ten

Text: Mitch Murray

Design: EJC Design

Printer: Lowe Martin

Process: Offset Lithography

Colours: 4

Paper: 110 gms PVA gummed

Perforations: 13 per 2cms

Stamp Size: 40mm x 32mm

No. of Stamps: 10

Format: Sheets of 15

Date of Issue: 16th September, 2020

NOTES TO EDITOR

- For images of the stamps, please visit [this link](#).
- Attachment 1: Issue Text
- Attachment 2: Prestige Booklet JPG
- Attachment 3: Mitch Murray JPG
- **About Mitch Murray:** Mitch Murray was born in Hove, Sussex on 30th January 1940. In his teens, inspired by his father's collection of records from the 30s, he bought a ukulele and soon began writing songs. In 1963, having turned down The Beatles' reluctantly-recorded rendition of his song 'How Do You Do It', (intended by producer George Martin to be their debut single), Mitch achieved his first number one record when Gerry and the Pacemakers released their own powerful version. Gerry's follow-up, 'I Like It' was Mitch's second chart-topper and kick-started his career as a star songwriter with five UK number ones and two Ivor Novello Awards to his credit. More international hits with words and music by Mitch Murray followed – 'You Were Made For Me' (Freddie and The Dreamers) and, by the same group, 'I'm Telling You Now' - the first of Mitch's three American number ones. A period of collaboration with lyricist Peter Callander produced Georgie Fame's 'Ballad of Bonnie and Clyde', Tony Christie's hits, including 'Avenues and Alleyways', 'Las Vegas' and 'I Did What I Did For Maria', and Paper Lace's 'Billy, Don't Be A Hero' and 'The Night Chicago Died'. He also co-produced Tony Christie's legendary, 'Amarillo', number one in 2005. In 1971, Mitch founded that great institution, SODS - The Society of Distinguished Songwriters. Since his outrageous rendition of 'Down Came The Rain', Mitch has built up a

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reputation for comedy in many areas, including broadcasting, after-dinner speaking and a series of best-selling books on the subject of humorous speechwriting. In 2019 he was made a Commander Of The British Empire (CBE), for services to music. Mitch has lived in the Isle of Man since 1978. His two daughters, Gina Murray and Mazz Murray are both leading musical stars in London's West End.

- The song will be exclusively available via the Zappar App (www.zappar.com): The Zappar app can be used by Zappar's partners as the connection point for people to access their augmented reality content.
- Get the latest Isle of Man Stamps and Coins news at www.facebook.com/IsleofManStampsandCoins
- Keep up-to-date with the latest news on Twitter: @IOMstampscoins
- Isle of Man Stamps and Coins is proud to be accredited and partnered with various organisations. For more information please visit [here](#).

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