

= Candida ( song ) =

" Candida " was the first single released by the American pop music group Dawn , with vocals by Tony Orlando , in July 1970 . The song , written by Irwin Levine and Toni Wine , was produced by Dave Appell and Hank Medress for Bell Records . Appell and Medress originally recorded another singer on the track , but decided that a different vocal approach would be preferable . Medress then approached Orlando to do the vocals . Orlando had been a professional singer in the early 1960s , but now worked as a music publishing manager for Columbia Records . Although initially worried about losing his job at Columbia , Orlando eventually agreed to lend his voice to the track .

" Candida " became a worldwide hit , reaching number one in five countries , and the top ten in many others . It was included on Dawn 's debut LP in 1970 and later appeared on several compilation albums . Andy Williams , Jesse Winchester , Ray Conniff , and Bernd Spier are among the artists who have covered the song .

= = Background and recording = =

In 1970 Hank Medress of the Tokens and Dave Appell were producing a song called " Candida " for Bell Records . The composition was written by Toni Wine and Irwin Levine . For the first recording of the song , the lead vocal was done by blues singer Frankie Paris , in a style reminiscent of the Drifters . Paris 's performance was deemed unsatisfactory , and a new singer was sought for the track . Medress believed that " an ethnic feel " would suit the song well . He asked his friend Tony Orlando , whose heritage is Puerto Rican and Greek , to perform its lead vocal .

Orlando , a former professional singer , had had two top @-@ 40 hits in the USA in 1961 , but later moved into the music publishing business ; in 1967 Columbia Records chose him to manage their publishing division , April @-@ Blackwood Music . When Medress approached Orlando , he was reluctant to perform on a Bell Records single , as he did not want to jeopardize his job at Columbia . Medress reassured him by saying they would use a band name for the release , and that nobody would know who the singer was . Orlando finally agreed , partly because he believed the song would be unsuccessful and would not attract any attention . He went into a studio with Appell and Medress , and sang his lead vocal over prerecorded tracks . Background vocals were done by Wine and the Tokens ' Jay Siegel ; Orlando was not present when these were recorded . By different accounts , additional background singers may have included Ellie Greenwich , Robin Grean , Leslie Miller , and Linda November . Phil Margo and Siegel played instruments on at least one of the versions of the song . The music of Orlando 's version has been described as having " a lilting , sing @-@ along groove " .

= = Release = =

" Candida " was released as a single in July 1970 under the moniker Dawn , named after the daughter of either Jay Siegel or Bell Records executive Steve Wax . The single reached number one in Brazil , Malaysia , Singapore , Spain , and Sweden , and the top ten in Austria , Canada , Denmark , Mexico , New Zealand , Norway , South Africa , the UK , and the USA . It also reached the top twenty in Australia , Belgium , and Germany . Billboard ranked the record as the No. 18 song of 1970 .

Jay Warner , author of American Singing Groups : A History from 1940 to Today , notes that the group the Corporation released a different version of " Candida " around the same time as Dawn 's . The Corporation 's recording was produced by Bill and Steve James , and released on Musicor Records . Warner believes that this version was based on an early , slower piano @-@ and @-@ vocals demo by Toni Wine . A July 1970 capsule review in Billboard magazine of both Dawn 's and the Corporation 's versions categorized the latter 's recording as possessing " a strong blues and Tex @-@ Mex flavor " , and stated that both singles had " equal sales and chart potential " . However , although for a short while it seemed there might be competition between the two , the Corporation 's single did not sell well .

Dawn 's version was released on their debut album , Candida , in 1970 , and later on the Dawn compilations Greatest Hits , The World of Tony Orlando & Dawn , The Definitive Collection , and The Big Hits . It has also appeared on various @-@ artists compilations including Today 's Super Hits , AM Gold : 1970 , and Real 70 's : the Polyester Hits , Disc One .

= = Covers = =

Numerous musicians have covered " Candida " , among them Andy Williams , Jesse Winchester , Jimmy Velvet , Ray Conniff , and reggae artists Owen Gray and the Pioneers . Foreign @-@ language versions have included recordings in Portuguese by the Fevers , in Spanish by La Tropa Loca , and in German by Bata Illic and Bernd Spier .

= = Charts = =