

**SIR 1001 Garden Party**

**Singing Call MS-58**

**Original artist: Ricky Nelson**

vocal recorded by: [Søren Christensen](#)

Hanhurst's Best Seller listing  
(January 2002) – No. 2

**Release Date: (vinyl) 2002 / 01 (MP3) 2003 / 04**

ORIGINAL MUSIC DETAILS: *WRITER:* Rick Nelson  
*PUBLISHERS:* Sony/ATV Songs LLC o/b/o Matragun Music

Ricky Nelson had been a Rock 'n' Roll star in the 1950's – but when he attended a special “revival show” in Madison Square Garden in 1971, he played his own Country Rock brand of music, the reception that he received was less than favourable. Consequently, saddened – he wrote the song Garden Party, which turned out to be hit!

Musically, this is the type of tune that lends itself to Square Dancing. It has a steady tempo – close to the Square Dance pattern and tells a simple story, in 8-beat sections. The musicians all knew the song and were very happy to provide their very best efforts in this new version. Obviously, featuring a lot of guitar as well as other “Country” instruments – the song is good opener to an evening, containing – as it does – an easy “sing-a-long” tag line; good tune, great Square Dance!

### **Additional Lyrics:**

I went to a garden party  
To reminisce with my old friends  
A chance to share old memories  
And play our songs again

**But it's alright now  
I've learned my lesson well  
You see you can't please everyone  
So you've got to please yourself**

People came from miles around  
Everyone was there  
Yoko brought her walrus  
There was magic in the air

I played them all the old songs  
I thought that's why they came  
No one heard the music  
We didn't look the same

Someone opened up the closet door  
And out stepped Johnny B Goode  
Playing guitar like a ringing a bell  
And looking like he should

When I got to the garden party  
They all knew my name  
No one recognised me  
I didn't look the same

And over in the corner  
Much to my surprise  
Mister Hughes hid in Dylan's shoes  
Wearing his disguise

I said hello to Mary Lou  
She belongs to me  
Sang a song about a honky tonk  
Then it was time to leave

If you've got to play at garden parties  
I wish you a lot of luck  
But if memories were all I sang  
I'd rather drive a truck

### **Where, When and Who produced the music:**

This was part of the sixth group of releases on Sting that were recorded in Nashville. A total of thirteen songs were recorded during this session, which was the first to be arranged and produced by Paul Bristow, following his purchase of the company. Also present on this session was Associate Producer: James Wyatt.

Recorded in July 2001, the music still featured the top session musicians in Nashville. Although the line-up would change occasionally, it would normally include: Gregg Galbraith – who acts as band leader - on guitars, Terry McMillan on Harmonica and percussion, Doug Jernigan on Steel and Dobro, Jerry Kroon on Drums, Roger Smith on Piano and keyboards with Rob Hojacos on fiddle, David Smith on Bass Guitar and Bruce Watkins on Rhythm Guitar / Banjo / Mandolin. Also worthy of special mention is our engineer on these sessions – also the studio owner – Kevin McManus.

### **Acknowledgement to Royal Records:**

We are indebted to Jerry Story and Tony Oxendine who introduced us to the studio in Nashville and invited us to use the top-of-the-line professional session musicians that they had assembled, to play for Royal Records.