

SIR 106 Only Sixteen

Singing Call MS-40

Original artist: Sam Cooke

vocal by: Stefan Sidholm

Release Date: (vinyl) 1993 / 02 (MP3) – 2002 / 09

Hanhurst's Best Seller listing
(March 1993) – unplaced

ORIGINAL MUSIC DETAILS: WRITER: Sam Cooke
PUBLISHERS: ABKCO Music Inc.

Sam Cooke was one of the most influential singer songwriters of the late 1950s / early 1960s. According to the book “You Send Me”, this song was probably written in Lou Rawls' parents' apartment in Chicago, maybe about Rawls' stepsister Marian, who turned sixteen in 1959.

Again we managed to keep a lot of the “feel” of the original, on this rendition. The music is instantly recognisable and will prompt a few “nostalgic” reactions from anyone who was around in (or can remember) the 1950s / 1960s. You can dedicate this to any younger (or even “young-at-heart) dancers. If there are any guaranteed “crowd-pleasers”, then this has to be one of the best!

Additional Lyrics:

She was only sixteen, only sixteen
I loved her so
But she was too young to fall in love
And I was too young to know

We'd laugh and we'd sing
and do the little things
That made my heart glow
But she was too young to fall in love
And I was too young to know

Why did I give my heart so fast
it never will happen again
But I was a mere lad of sixteen
I've aged a year since then

She was only sixteen, only sixteen
with eyes that would glow
But she was too young to fall in love
and I was too young to know

Where, When and Who produced the music:

In 1990, Ingvar Pettersson and Robert Björk formed a business relationship with Klaus Strand-Holm in Denmark.

Klaus's wife Karin had been teaching Traditional forms of Square Dancing in Denmark for some time and Klaus – an excellent musician, who had his own studio and access to many first-rate players – had been producing music for Karin to use in her courses. This same music was featured on a series of audio-cassette tapes, with which many Danish dancers will be familiar.

Klaus agreed that – if Ingvar and Robert would provide choreography and vocals for some of the audio-cassettes, in part using Sting and Snow instrumentals, then Sting and Snow could release his music – on vinyl – on our label.

These Danish recordings – more recently attributed to “Gammeldansk” (which is a most potent alcoholic “snaps-style” breakfast drink and literally translates as “old Danish”) – are very well structured tunes that rely upon a simple but effective rhythm that underpins very bright and clear lead and fill instrumentation. Many of them were written especially as Square Dance Tunes and have never been available in any other form.

In 2001, Klaus sold a further batch of his music to Sting and Snow, all of which were “original” songs.