

SIR 208 Goodnight Irene

vocal by: Ingvar Pettersson

Release Date: (vinyl) 1996 / 10 (MP3) – 2003 / 12

Singing Call MS-68

Original artist: Pete Seeger and the Weavers

Hanhurst's Best Seller listing
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ORIGINAL MUSIC DETAILS: WRITERS: Huddie Ledbetter, John A Lomax, Sr.
PUBLISHER: Ludlow Music Inc.

This song is an old tune – a “folk standard”, so nobody knows who originally wrote it! “Leadbelly” (Huddie Ledbetter) is credited with writing the lyrics that comprise the most well known version of the song. The Weavers had a No.1 hit with this version, one year after “Leadbelly” died...

The Sting version is a simple but fun piece of music. The instrumentation is – at least in part – very appropriate to the era from which the song came, the 1930's the period of the “Great Depression”. In the face of great adversity, many wonderful things are “born”; I am not really sure if this style of music really fits that category but it's a good story! This is a real up-tempo track guaranteed to raise the spirits of the floor – good for a sing-a-long!

Additional Lyrics:

Irene, goodnight,
Irene, goodnight,
Goodnight, Irene,
Goodnight, Irene,
I'll see you in my dreams.

Last Saturday night I got married,
Me and my wife settle down,,
Now me and my wife are parted,
I'm gonna take another stroll in town.

Sometimes I live in the country,
Sometimes I live in town,
Sometimes I have a great notion,
To jump in the river and drown.

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.