

SIR 317 With A Little Help From My Friends

vocal by: Paul Bristow

Release Date: (vinyl) 1997 / 05 (MP3) 2002 / 12

Singing Call MS-65

Original artist: The Beatles

Hanhurst's Best Seller listing
(May 1997) – No. 2

ORIGINAL MUSIC DETAILS: *WRITERS:* John Lennon, Paul McCartney
PUBLISHERS: Sony/ATV Tunes LLC D/B/A ATV (Northern Songs Catalogue) and
EMI Blackwood Music Collecting Agent – Lennon/McCartney Writer.

This tune was originally featured as part of the Sergeant Pepper Album; one of the most eagerly awaited albums of all time. Paul McCartney and John Lennon wrote this tune for Ringo Starr to sing; he usually sang on at least one track on each of their albums. It has gone on to be one of the most “covered” of the Beatles’ tunes; probably the most famous “cover” was by Joe Cocker at the Woodstock Festival.

This was my choice, so I make no apologies for it; as I have said before “I like the Beatles”! In order to use this tune for Square Dancing, we had to speed it up and change the overall “feel”, part of this exercise was achieved by using a Rolling Banjo throughout. It’s still one of my favourites and – as far as I can tell – one of the dancer’s too!

Additional Lyrics:

What would you think if I sang out of tune,
Would you stand up and walk out on me.
Lend me your ears and I’ll sing you a song,
And I’ll try not to sing out of key.

I get by with a little help from my friends,
I get high with a little help from my friends,
Going to try with a little help from my friends.

What do I do when my love is away.
(does it worry you to be alone)
How do I feel by the end of the day
(are you sad because you’re on your own)

No I get by with a little help from my friends,

Do you need anybody,
I need somebody to love.
Could it be anybody
I want somebody to love.

Would you believe in a love at first sight,
Yes I’m certain that it happens all the time.
What do you see when you turn out the light,
I can’t tell you, but I know it’s mine.

I get by with a little help from my friends,
Yes I get by with a little help from my friends,
With a little help from my friends.

Where, When and Who produced the music:

This was part of the fourth group of releases on Sting that were recorded in Nashville. A total of five songs were recorded during this session, which was arranged and produced by company founder, Ingvar Pettersson and recording artist Robert Björk; Paul Bristow was also present – this was his first trip to Nashville!

Recorded in June 1996, the music featured the top session musicians in Nashville. These included: 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 Morris 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.