

SIR 101 Highway Cowboy **vocal recorded by: Stefan Sidholm**

Release Date: (vinyl) 1986 / 05 (MP3) – 2003 / 08

Singing Call MS-63

Hanhurst's Best Seller listing
(May 1986) – unplaced

Original Music Details: Writers: Al Gore, Frank Dycus
Publishers: Songs of Universal Inc.

Original artist: Al Gore / Frank Dycus?

Okay, I have to admit “defeat” on this one. The founders of Sting and Snow could not advise me who originally recorded this song; it appears to be an older tune. Although we were able to obtain the necessary license, I could not track down any artist that enjoyed a “hit” with this record! The only listed artist on the licensing web-site is Stefan Sidholm – who assures me that he did not record the original! If anyone out there knows anymore about the original artist, please let me know...

This was one of the first two tracks that were recorded for Sting Records. It was recorded by a group of musicians named the Tennessee Five that Stefan and Ingvar had asked to provide the music for their newly founded company. The music on this release is quite a bit different from any other Sting record. It presumably follows very closely to the original arrangement, which gives it a quite unique flavour – definitely something that could add a little “spice” to a Square Dance!

Additional Lyrics:

I was born in the sleeper of a Peter-bilt rig, somewhere on the road

I started riding big trucks before I was five, sitting on my Mama's lap

Mama raised me to be a highway cowboy but she hadn't filled my Daddy's shoes

I'm a highway cowboy and my truck is moving home
I'm a highway cowboy and the road is all I have ever known

Tomorrow might find me in Wichita

But I'll drive all the way to Timbuktu, if you'll give me something I can haul

Unfortunately, I don't have access to a copy of the original of this tune, so I cannot give you all the lyrics. Can anyone help?

Where, When and Who produced the music:

This was one of the first two tracks that were recorded for Sting Records. Stefan Sidholm and Ingvar Petterson had decided to “found” a record company, from scratch – a bold idea (at best)!

They found a convenient studio and engaged a group of musicians named the Tennessee Five (about whom I know nothing...). This group and the studio engineers were subjected to a “crash course” in making Square dance music, which ended up – after a lot of hard work – with the first two Sting records!

There is a very steep “learning curve” when it comes to making music for Square Dancing and it is a testament to Stefan and Ingvar that they managed to do so well, on their first attempt

One of the best ways to learn is to make mistakes; I know that there were some problems on this first session – but it lead to future knowledge, which proved invaluable. Sting and Snow owe a great deal to this early work, it provided the basis for ALL that followed!