

SIR 377 Lily The Pink

Singing Call MS-68

Original artist: The Scaffold

vocal by: Paul Bristow

Hanhurst's Best Seller listing
(February 2008) – No.2

Release Date: Vinyl, MP3 and CD – 2008 / 02

ORIGINAL MUSIC DETAILS:

WRITERS: M.McGear, McGough & Gorman

PUBLISHERS: Music Sales Corp OBO Noel Gay Music Ltd.

This song was a number one hit, in the U.K. in 1968 for The Scaffold a comedy, poetry and music trio from Liverpool, England, comprising Mike McGear (real name Peter Michael McCartney - brother of Paul McCartney), Roger McGough and John Gorman. As none of the trio were musicians, they relied on session players for their tracks, amongst these were: Jack Bruce, Elton John, Graham Nash and Jimi Hendrix. The Scaffold disbanded, for keeps, in 1974.

The song is based on Lydia Estes Pinkham (February 9, 1819 – May 17, 1883) who developed her “Medicinal Compound” (still available today) to deal with a range of medical problems. It was most popular in the U.S. in the twenties and early thirties, as a 40-proof potent eye-opener, during Prohibition... We used the Polka rhythm on this track to convey the feel of the original song; this is another very good example of a popular tune re-made as a Square Dance!

Additional Lyrics:

We'll drink a drink a drink to Lily the pink
the pink the pink
The saviour of the human race
For she invented medicinal compound
Most efficacious in every case

Mr Frears had sticky out ears
And it made him awful shy
And so they give him medicinal compound
And now he's learning how to fly

Well Ebenezer thought he was Julius Caesar
And so they put him in a home
Where they give him medicinal compound
And now he's emperor of Rome

Jennifer Eccles had terrible freckles
And the boys all call her names
But she changed with medicinal compound
And now she joins in all their games

Auntie Milly ran willy-nilly
When her legs they did recede
And so they rubbed on medicinal compound
Now they call her Millipede

Brother Tony was notably bony
He would never eat his meals
And so they give him medicinal compound
Now they move him round on wheels

Johnny hammer had a terrible stammer
He could hardly say a word
And so they give him medicinal compound
And now his seen and never heard

Lily the pink she turned to drink she
Filled up with paraffin inside
And despite her medicinal compound
Sadly picca-Lily died

Up to heaven her soul ascended
For the church bells they did ring
She took with her medicinal compound
Hark the herald angels sing

Where, When and Who produced the music:

This was part of the twelfth group of releases on Sting and Snow that were recorded in Nashville, during November 2007. A total of fourteen songs were recorded during this session, which was the seventh to be arranged and produced by Paul Bristow. On this occasion, Paul had his family with him to provide moral AND technical support!

As in previous years, the music features the top musicians in Nashville: Gregg Galbraith – as band leader playing all lead Guitars, Doug Jernigan on Steel and Dobro, Roger Morris on Piano and Keyboards, Fiddle by Rob Hojacos, Larry Paxton on Bass Guitar and Bruce Watkins playing Rhythm Guitar Banjo and Mandolin. This year we had Eddy Anderson on Drums and Percussion. We also had Sam Levine playing all the “Reeds” (Saxophone, Clarinet, Flute etc.) and Whistles. As always Kevin McManus (studio owner) was the engineer.

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.