

SIR 386 He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother

vocal by: Tony Oxendine

Release Date: Vinyl, MP3 and CD – 2009 / 02

Singing Call MS-57

Hanhurst's Best Seller listing
(February 2009) – No. 1

ORIGINAL MUSIC DETAILS: WRITERS: B. Scott, B. Russel
PUBLISHERS: Jenny Music Inc., Harrison Music Corp.

Original artist: The Hollies

The Hollies are an English pop group formed in the early 1960s, who are known for their distinctive vocal harmony style. Although the group's line-up has changed, over the years, at the time that this tune was recorded (1969) the group comprised: Allan Clarke (Lead Vocals, Guitar, Harmonica), Terry Sylvester (Guitar, Vocals), Tony Hicks (Guitar, Banjo, Mandolin, Bass, Keyboards, Vocals), Bernie Calvert (Bass, Keyboards) and Bobby Elliott (Drums); this tune also featured Elton John on Piano.

We chose to record this track in a style that reflected, as far as possible, the original feel of the song – but using our Nashville players. An important part of the team, who is featured on this track, is Sam Levine – on Clarinet and Saxophone.. The end result is a very smooth and melodic rock ballad that contains all the depth and emotion of the original. As well as being a super song for a caller to sing, it's also one that you can use to encourage the dancers to “sing-a-long”; a real “feel good” Square Dance!

Additional Lyrics:

The road is long, with many a winding turn
That leads us to who knows where, who knows where
But I'm strong, Strong enough to carry him
He ain't heavy, he's my brother

So on we go his welfare is of my concern
No burden is he to bear we'll get there
For I know, he would not encumber me
He ain't heavy, he's my brother

It's a long, long road, from which there is no return
While we're on the way to there, why not share
And the load, doesn't weigh me down at all
He ain't heavy he's my brother

Where, When and Who produced the music:

This was part of the thirteenth group of releases on Sting and Snow that were recorded in Nashville, during September 2008. A total of Ten songs were recorded during this session, which was the eighth to be arranged and produced by Paul Bristow. On this occasion, Paul had his Goddaughter – Ria Hepden and her Father – Ron Hepden (Special Guest Caller on Sting), to help with “decisions”!

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, Bruce Watkins playing Rhythm Guitar and Banjo and Jerry Kroon on Drums. For the second year running we had Sam Levine on all the “Reeds” (Saxophone, Flute, Clarinet etc). 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.