

**SIR 705 Papa Was A Rollin' Stone** vocal recorded by: [Thorsten Geppert](#) Release Date: (vinyl) 2003 / 07 (MP3) – 2004 / 09

**Singing Call MS-67**

**Original artist: The Temptations**

Hanhurst's Best Seller listing  
(July 2003) – No. 7

ORIGINAL MUSIC DETAILS: *WRITERS*: Norman Whitfield, Barrett Strong  
*PUBLISHERS*: Stone Diamond Group

The Temptations enjoyed chart success, with this song, in the U.S., in 1972, when it was a No.1 on the Billboard Charts. In case you don't know, The Temptations were a Motown quintet who began in 1964 with a merging of two groups, the Primes and Otis Williams and the Distant. Although there have been many changes in their line-up, they are still playing, with Otis Williams, the only "survivor" from the original group.

I have to say that our Nashville musicians really excelled themselves on this track. So much so that – whilst we were recording the music – the people in the "front-office" at the studio, were continually putting in an appearance to listen to something – quite a bit different from the normal Nashville sound; a whole "new" experience! The end result is a first class piece of Square Dance music that really derives much of it's sound from the Motown original.

### **Additional Lyrics:**

It was the third of September  
That day I'll always remember, yes I will  
`Cause that was the day that my daddy died

"Papa was a rollin` stone  
Wherever he laid his hat was his home  
And when he died  
All he left us was alone"

### **Where, When and Who produced the music:**

This was part of the seventh group of releases on Sting that were recorded in Nashville. A total of fourteen songs were recorded during this session, which was the second to be arranged and produced by Paul Bristow – following his purchase of the company – alongside Associate Producer: James Wyatt.

Recorded in September 2002, the music still featured the top session musicians in Nashville. Although the line-up would change occasionally, it would normally include: 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 Smith 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.