

SIR 380 Swinging On A Star

vocal by: Paul Bristow

Release Date: Vinyl, MP3 and CD – 2009 / 10

Singing Call MS-68

Original artist: Bing Crosby

Hanhurst's Best Seller listing
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ORIGINAL MUSIC DETAILS: *WRITERS:* Johnny Burke, James Van Heusen
PUBLISHERS: Music Sales Corporation OBO Dorsey Brothers Music, a division of
Music Sales Corporation. Bourne Co. OBO Bourne Co-Burke & Van Heusen Division

Harry Lillis “Bing” Crosby was born in Tacoma, Washington, on May 3, 1903 and is remembered as a popular singer and actor. Amongst a tremendous array of awards that he received in his lifetime, he won an Academy Award for Best Actor for his role as Father Chuck O'Malley in the 1944 motion picture “Going My Way”, which was where this song first appeared; he is one of the few people to have three stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and was the first to receive the Global Achievement Award.

The intention on this recording was to retain the original style – as far as possible – and to provide a “nostalgic” feel to the arrangement. To achieve this we used the original rhythm and the players followed the “Band” sound that was used in the film. The end result was a fairly smooth construction that really works well as a Square Dance tune. One aspect that really helped was the excellent playing of Sam Levine on various Reed instruments. This is a slower song with a humorous slant – a fun tune!

Additional Lyrics:

Would you like to swing on a star
Carry moonbeams home in a jar
And be better off than you are
Or would you rather be a mule

A mule is an animal with long funny ears
Kicks up at anything he hears
His back is brawny but his brain is weak
He's just plain stupid with a stubborn streak
And by the way, if you hate to go to school
You may grow up to be a mule

A pig is an animal with dirt on his face
His shoes are a terrible disgrace
He has no manners when he eats his food
He's fat and lazy and extremely rude
But if you don't care a feather or a fig
You may grow up to be a pig

A fish won't do anything, but swim in a brook
He can't write his name or read a book
To fool the people is his only thought
And though he's slippery, he still gets caught
But then if that sort of life is what you wish
You may grow up to be a fish
A new kind of jumped-up slippery fish

And all the monkeys aren't in the zoo
Every day you meet quite a few
So you see it's all up to you
You can be better than you are
You could be swingin' on a star

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 secured the talents of 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.