**Unchained Melody (Alex North & Hy Zaret, 1955) (A)**

[**Unchained Melody**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiiyq2xrSI0) **by The Righteous Brothers (solo by Bobby Hatfield) (1965) (C)**

**2/2 Time – Tempo = 100 BPM**

**Intro A | F#m | D | E |**

**A F#m D E E7 A**

Oh my love my darling. I've hungered for your touch,

**F#m E | E7 A F#m D**

A long lonely time. And time goes by so slowly

**E E7 A F#m C#m7 | E7**

And time can do so much. Are you still mine?

**A . . E F#m C#m7**

I need your love, I need your love,

**Bm . . E A Amaj7 | A7**

God speed your love to me.

**Bridge**

**D E D C**

Lonely rivers flow to the sea to the sea,

**D E A | A7**

To the open arms of the sea ( *yeah* )

**D E D C**

Lonely rivers sigh: “Wait for me wait for me;

**D E A | A**

I'll be coming home, wait for me.”

**A F#m D E E7 A**

Oh my love my darling. I've hungered for your touch,

**F#m E | E7 | A F#m D**

A long lonely time. Time goes by so slowly,

**E E7 A F#m C#m7 | E7**

And time can do so much. Are you still mine?

**A . . E F#m C#m7**

I need your love, I need your love,

**Bm . . E A | F#m | D | Dm | A**

God speed your love to me.

**Unchained Melody (Alex North & Hy Zaret, 1955) (C)**

[**Unchained Melody**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiiyq2xrSI0) **by The Righteous Brothers (solo by Bobby Hatfield) (1965) (C)**

**2/2 Time – Tempo = 100 BPM**

**Intro C | Am | F | G |**

**C Am F G G7 C**

Oh my love my darling. I've hungered for your touch,

**Am G | G7 C Am F**

A long lonely time. And time goes by so slowly

**G G7 C Am Em7 | G7**

And time can do so much. Are you still mine?

**C . . G Am Em7**

I need your love, I need your love,

**Dm . . G C Cmaj7 | C7**

God speed your love to me.

**Bridge**

**F G F D#**

Lonely rivers flow to the sea to the sea,

**F G C | C7**

To the open arms of the sea ( *yeah* )

**F G F D#**

Lonely rivers sigh: “Wait for me wait for me;

**F G C | C**

I'll be coming home, wait for me.”

**C Am F G G7 C**

Oh my love my darling. I've hungered for your touch,

**Am G | G7 | C Am F**

A long lonely time. Time goes by so slowly,

**G G7 C Am Em7 | G7**

And time can do so much. Are you still mine?

**C . . G Am Em7**

I need your love, I need your love,

**Dm . . G C | Am | F | Fm | C**

God speed your love to me**.**

**Unchained Melody (Alex North & Hy Zaret, 1955) (D)**

[**Unchained Melody**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiiyq2xrSI0) **by The Righteous Brothers (solo by Bobby Hatfield) (1965) (C)**

**2/2 Time – Tempo = 100 BPM**

**Intro D | Bm | G | A |**

**D Bm G A A7 D**

Oh my love my darling. I've hungered for your touch,

**Bm A | A7 D Bm G**

A long lonely time. And time goes by so slowly

**A A7 D Bm F#m7 | A7**

And time can do so much. Are you still mine?

**D . . A Bm F#m7**

I need your love, I need your love,

**Em . . A D Dmaj7 | D7**

God speed your love to me.

**Bridge**

**G A G F**

Lonely rivers flow to the sea to the sea,

**G A D | D7**

To the open arms of the sea ( *yeah* )

**G A G F**

Lonely rivers sigh: “Wait for me wait for me;

**G A D | D**

I'll be coming home, wait for me.”

**D Bm G A A7 D**

Oh my love my darling. I've hungered for your touch,

**Bm A | A7 | D Bm G**

A long lonely time. Time goes by so slowly,

**A A7 D Bm F#m7 | A7**

And time can do so much. Are you still mine?

**D . . A Bm F#m7**

I need your love, I need your love,

**Em . . A D | Bm | G | Gm | D**

God speed your love to me.

**Unchained Melody (Alex North & Hy Zaret, 1955) (F)**

[**Unchained Melody**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiiyq2xrSI0) **by The Righteous Brothers (solo by Bobby Hatfield) (1965) (C)**

**2/2 Time – Tempo = 100 BPM**

**Intro F | Dm | Bb | C |**

**F Dm Bb C C7 F**

Oh my love my darling. I've hungered for your touch,

**Dm C | C7 F Dm Bb**

A long lonely time. And time goes by so slowly

**C C7 F Dm Am7 | C7**

And time can do so much. Are you still mine?

**F . . C Dm Am7**

I need your love, I need your love,

**Gm . . C F Fmaj7 | F7**

God speed your love to me.

**Bridge**

**Bb C Bb Ab**

Lonely rivers flow to the sea to the sea,

**Bb C F | F7**

To the open arms of the sea ( *yeah* )

**Bb C Bb Ab**

Lonely rivers sigh: “Wait for me wait for me;

**Bb C F | F**

I'll be coming home, wait for me.”

**F Dm Bb C C7 F**

Oh my love my darling. I've hungered for your touch,

**Dm C | C7 | F Dm Bb**

A long lonely time. Time goes by so slowly,

**C C7 F Dm Am7 | C7**

And time can do so much. Are you still mine?

**F . . C Dm Am7**

I need your love, I need your love,

**Gm . . C F | Dm | Bb | Bbm | F**

God speed your love to me.

**Unchained Melody (Alex North & Hy Zaret, 1955) (G)**

[**Unchained Melody**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiiyq2xrSI0) **by The Righteous Brothers (solo by Bobby Hatfield) (1965) (C)**

**2/2 Time – Tempo = 100 BPM**

**Intro G | Em | C | D |**

**G Em C D D7 G**

Oh my love my darling. I've hungered for your touch,

**Em D | D7 G Em C**

A long lonely time. And time goes by so slowly

**D D7 G Em Bm7 | D7**

And time can do so much. Are you still mine?

**G . . D Em Bm7**

I need your love, I need your love,

**Am . . D G Gmaj7 | G7**

God speed your love to me.

**Bridge**

**C D C Bb**

Lonely rivers flow to the sea to the sea,

**C D G | G7**

To the open arms of the sea ( *yeah* )

**C D C Bb**

Lonely rivers sigh: “Wait for me wait for me;

**C D G | G**

I'll be coming home, wait for me.”

**G Em C D D7 G**

Oh my love my darling. I've hungered for your touch,

**Em D | D7 | G Em C**

A long lonely time. Time goes by so slowly,

**D D7 G Em Bm7 | D7**

And time can do so much. Are you still mine?

**G . . D Em Bm7**

I need your love, I need your love,

**Am . . D G | Em | C | Cm | G**

God speed your love to me.

**Background**

* [Unchained Melody](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unchained_Melody) – Wikipedia
* [Unchained Melody](https://www.songfacts.com/facts/the-righteous-brothers/unchained-melody) – Song Facts

The music was written as a theme for the little-known prison film "Unchained" (January 1955); Todd Duncan sang the vocals for the film soundtrack.

In 1955, three versions of the song (by Les Baxter, Al Hibbler, and Roy Hamilton) charted in the Billboard top 10 in the United States, and four versions (by Al Hibbler, Les Baxter, Jimmy Young, and Liberace) appeared in the top 20 in the United Kingdom simultaneously, a record for any song.

Over 1,500 recordings of "Unchained Melody" have been made by more than 670 artists, in multiple languages.

The best-known version of "Unchained Melody" was recorded by The Righteous Brothers for Philles Records in 1965. The lead vocal was performed solo by Bobby Hatfield, who later recorded other versions of the song credited solely to him. According to his singing partner Bill Medley, they had agreed to do one solo piece each per album. Both wanted to sing "Unchained Melody" for their fourth album, but Hatfield won the coin toss. "Unchained Melody" is written in the key of C major.

The famous climax of this song where Bobby Hatfield sings the high "I need your love" line wasn't how the song was written. In our interview with Bill Medley, he explained that Hatfield did two takes of the song, then left. He would often reconsider his performance and come back later to change it, and that's what he did on this track, returning to ask Medley if he could make an edit. This was no easy task, since with a maximum of four tracks to work with, you had to record over part of the original take, but Medley accommodated and Hatfield delivered that soaring vocal line.

The 1965 Righteous Brothers' version became the jukebox standard after its release. Hatfield changed the melody in the final verse and many subsequent covers of the song are based on his version. The song reached No. 4 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and No. 14 in the UK in 1965. "Unchained Melody" reappeared on the US Billboard charts in 1990 after The Righteous Brothers' recording was used in the box office blockbuster film *Ghost*, peaking at #13.

Bill Medley sang the low parts with his bass-baritone voice (~ F2 to F4), with Hatfield taking the higher-register vocals with his tenor although his voice reached the register of a countertenor (~ B2 to E5). Middle C is C4.

* [Unchained Melody](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chCbF9lcmK8) by Les Baxter (1955) (#1)
* [Unchained Melody](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbT9fNJGpEo) by Al Hibbler (1955) (#3)
* [Unchained Melody](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EeKUssceWgU) by Roy Hamilton (1955) (#6; #1 on the R&B Chart)
* [Unchained Melody](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXZbkhNmzEA) by June Valli (#29); these four were on the Top 40 simultaneously.
* [Unchained Melody](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6k0eMky0ac) by Harry Belafonte (1956) (altered lyric)
* [Unchained Melody](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiiyq2xrSI0) by The Righteous Brothers (solo by Bobby Hatfield) (1965) (#1)
* [Unchained Melody](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUMsMCZuo8M) by The Supremes (1966)
* [Unchained Melody](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AG9ph9xkOrw) by Elvis Presley (accompanying himself on the piano)
* [Unchained Melody](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-Vc8zbGZlM) by Ricky Nelson
* [Unchained Melody](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjgsVlxM_ww) by The Fleetwoods (1959)
* [Unchained Melody](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fV8XwoIGo5M) by Sam Cooke
* [Unchained Melody](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UskkwKmccGU) by The Platters
* [Unchained Melod](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZObKn2E9rMw)y by Queen