

Many Rivers to Cross

Written by bluelover

Monday, 13 August 2012 20:55 - Last Updated Saturday, 21 March 2015 16:11

Many Rivers to Cross

"Many Rivers to Cross" is one of Jimmy Cliff's most haunting songs. **Jimmy Cliff** wrote this in 1969. This is one of the few Cliff tracks to use an organ. The rhythm may be lightly syncopated, but this is really a spiritual, and is accompanied by gospel-flavored backing vocalists. The sumptuous organ adds to the church feel, but the guitar which picks its way across the grooves adds a touch of rock and just a hint of blues to the congregation.

Many Rivers To Cross

After years of poorly paid tours of Europe, he remembered crossing the English Channel to Dover in a despondent mood, wondering what more he had to do to gain acceptance. When filmmaker **Percy Henzell** heard this song, he offered Cliff the lead in his film *The Harder They Come*. Cliff's

acting and soundtrack to the film made him one of the first international Reggae superstars.



Jimmy Cliff

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Born James Chambers on April 1, 1948, in Somerton, Jamaica; changed name to Jimmy Cliff, ca. 1962. He began writing songs while still at primary school in St. James, listening to a neighbour's sound system. In 1962 his father took him to Kingston to go to Kingston Technical school.



Jimmy Cliff

In 1968, Cliff released his debut album, the excellent *Hard Road*, and won the International Song Festival with *"Waterfall,"* a song that became a smash hit in Brazil. The album that he released in 1969, *Wonderful World, Beautiful People*, included the first release of **"Many Rivers to Cross"**.

His next album, released in 1970, prompted precisely the opposite response: critics lauded *Another Cycle*, but Cliff's financial status waned due to slow record sales.



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This limbo in which Cliff's career has generally suffered, was banished for a brief time in the early 1970s with the success of the low-budget cult film *The Harder They Come*. Director Perry Henzell, a white Jamaican filmmaker who earned his living filming commercials, had an idea for a film that would introduce audiences to the harsh realities of Jamaican life.

The Harder They Come had a powerful cultural effect. It introduced Cliff to international audiences and cemented his reputation with small but loyal reggae audiences in the United States and Britain well into the future; it also introduced reggae to international audiences.



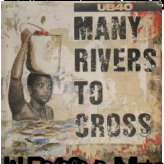
Jimmy Cliff in *The Harder They Come*

The soundtrack album released in 1972 in the United. It was issued in February 1973 in North America. It peaked at #140 on the Billboard 200. In 2003, the album was ranked number 119 on Rolling Stone magazine's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time.

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Jimmy Cliff

The song 'Many Rivers to Cross' is a classic reggae song, originally written by the Jamaican group The

Harder They Come. It was the first time it was performed in

the song 'Many Rivers to Cross' had a unique sound, unlike any other