

Many Rivers to Cross

Written by bluelover

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

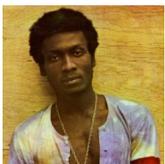
Many Rivers to Cross

"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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Jimmy Cliff

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.



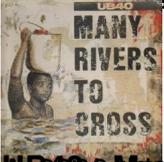
Jimmy Cliff in *The Harder They Come*

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 track, originally recorded by Jimmy Cliff in 1970. It is a powerful anthem that speaks to the struggles of the poor and the oppressed. The song has been covered by many other artists, including Amie Lennox in 2005.

Amie Lennox's 2005 cover of 'Many Rivers to Cross' was a significant performance. It was her first live performance in a long time, and it was a powerful statement about her return to music.

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