



"Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.1, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

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Program 91 "I Will Follow Him" © Franck Pourcel and Paul Mauriat

Sometimes a song that focuses on love between people can be transformed to feature a Christian theme when the message is re-directed to the Lord. Script writers for the popular movie, *Sister Act*, recognized such potential in this particular secular number, which was sung about and to Jesus in the production. Notice how, with minimal changes to the lyrics, the song becomes very worshipful. No problem finding the Cross Connection!

The Song ¹

- Originally recorded as an instrumental piece by Franck Pourcel in 1961
- Recorded by Little Peggy March in 1963 – became a #1 hit in the U.S. on both the Billboard Hot 100 and the soul singles charts
 - Also took #1 spot in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Japan, Scandinavia
 - Translation of the French language tune "Chariot" recorded a year earlier by Petula Clark, reached #1 in France and #8 in Belgium
- Paul Mauriat (of "Love Is Blue" fame) recorded a disco version in 1976
- Featured in the 1992 movie *Sister Act*
- Other covers: Skeeter Davis, Dee Dee Sharp, Bobby Darrin, Rick Nelson, Percy Faith



The Artist – Margaret Annemarie Battavio, "Little Peggy March" (1948-) ²

- American pop music singer from Lansdale, PA
- Primarily remembered for this song -- a million-seller from 1963
- Discovered by record producers at age 13 singing at her cousin's wedding
- Nickname stemmed from her 4'10" height, and her March birth date
- At 14, became the youngest female artist with a number one hit
 - Record still stands for the Billboard Hot 100
- Manager squandered her fortune by 1966, leaving her with \$500
- Hired new manager after graduating from high school; ultimately married him
- Remembered as a one-hit wonder, but also had a couple other singles in the U.S. -- "I Wish I Were A Princess" (#32) and "Hello Heartache, Goodbye Love" (#26)
- Achieved significant success in Germany throughout the 1970s, charting 25 songs
- Moved to Germany in 1969; placed 2nd in Eurovision Song Contest in '69 and '75
- Currently performs in Las Vegas and at American Bandstand Theater in Branson, MO

I will follow Him
Follow Him wherever He may go,
And near Him, I always will be
For nothing can keep me away,

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'" – Matthew 16:24, TNIV

"...neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." – Rom. 8:38-39

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Will_Follow_Him

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peggy_March

He is my destiny

des-ti-ny – 1. *The inevitable or necessary fate to which a particular person or thing is destined; one's lot*³ Discuss the application here

I will follow Him,
Ever since He touched my heart I knew,
There isn't an ocean too deep,
A mountain so high it can keep,
Keep me away, away from His love

• Here, Peggy March sings “hand” instead of “heart”
*“Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.”* – Psa. 139:7-10

I love Him, I love Him, I love Him,
And where He goes,
I'll follow, I'll follow, I'll follow
He'll always be my true love,
my true love, my true love
from now until forever, forever, forever

Compare to these lyrics from “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough” from Sister Act 2 (1993):

I will follow Him,
Follow Him wherever He may go,
There isn't an ocean too deep,
A mountain so high it can keep,
Keep me away, away from His love...

“Ain’t no mountain high enough
Ain’t no valley low enough (say it again)
Ain’t no river wide enough
To keep me from you”⁴

We will follow Him,
Follow Him wherever He may go,
There isn't an ocean too deep,
A mountain so high it can keep,
Keep us away, away from His love...

• Here, the *Sister Act* version shifts focus from “me” and “my” to “us” and “His”
“...God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’” – Hebrews 13:5b
“...the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”
-- Deuteronomy 31:6b

I love Him (Oh yes I love Him)
I'll follow (I'm gonna follow)
True love (He'll always be my true, true love)
Forever (Now until forever)
I love Him, I love Him, I love Him,
And where He goes,
I'll follow, I'll follow, I'll follow,
He'll always be my true love,
My true love, my true love,
From now until forever,
Forever, forever...

These are strong pledges of commitment; consider what Peter promised to Jesus --
“...Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.”
-- Luke 22:33
‘...’Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you’.
And all the other disciples said the same.” – Matt. 26:35

There isn't an ocean too deep,
A mountain so high it can keep,
Keep me away,
away from His love

- What did Peter do after that?
- Might we do the same?
- What was Jesus' response?

Consider what happened when Jesus was betrayed in the Garden of Gethsemane –
“Then everyone deserted him and fled.” – Mark 14:50

Final Thoughts:

The Bible clearly explains that God does not tolerate lukewarmness from believers (see Rev. 3:15-16). Our pledge to follow Him must be demonstrated by following through!

“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.” – Matthew 24:12-13 NIV

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³ <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/destiny>

⁴ © 1967, Nickolas Ashford and Valerie Simpson