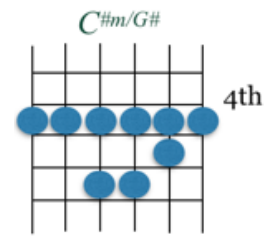


Take Me Home, Country Roads

Words & Music by Bill Danoff, Taffy Nivert, John Denver © 1970 all rights reserved

E *C#m/G#*
Almost heaven, West Virginia;
B *A* *E*
Blue Ridge Mountains, Shenandoah River.
E *C#m/G#*
Life is old there, older than the trees;
B *A* *E*
Younger than the mountains, blowing like a breeze.



CHORUS

E *B*
Country roads, take me home,
C#m/G# *A*
To the place, I belong.
E *B*
West Virginia, mountain momma;
A *E*
Take me home, country roads.

E *C#m/G#*
All my mem'ries, gather 'round her;
B *A* *E*
Miner's lady, stranger to blue water.
E *C#m/G#*
Dark and dusty, painted on the sky;
B *A* *E*
Misty taste of moonshine, teardrops in my eyes.

CHORUS

BRIDGE

C#m/G# *B* *E*
I hear her voice, in the mornin' hours she calls to me;
A *E* *B*
Radio reminds me of my home far a-way.
C#m/G# *D* *A*
And drivin' down the road I get a feeling;
E *B* *B7*
That I should have been home yesterday, yesterday

CHORUS x 2

History

Starting December 22, 1970, John Denver was heading the bill at The Cellar Door, a Washington D.C. club. Bill Danoff and his then-wife, Mary ("Taffy") Nivert opened for him as a duo named Fat City.

Danoff and Nivert told Denver about a song that they had been working on for about a month. Inspiration had come while driving to a family reunion of Nivert's relatives in nearby Maryland. To pass the time en route, Danoff had made up a ballad about the little winding roads they were taking. Later, he changed the story to fit that of an artist friend, who used to write to him about the splendors of the West Virginia countryside.

Originally, Danoff and Nivert had planned to sell the song to Johnny Cash. They sang the song for Denver and as he recalled, "I flipped." The three stayed up until 6:00 a.m., changing words



Taffy Nivert
Photo from
secondnandsongs.com

and moving lines around. When they finished, John announced that the song had to go on his next album. Denver recorded about a dozen Danoff compositions from 1972 through the end of his career.

The song was premiered December 30, 1970, during an encore of Denver's set, the singers reading the words from a folded piece of paper. This resulted in a five-minute ovation, one of the longest in Cellar Door history. They recorded it in New York in January 1971.

"**Take Me Home, Country Roads**," is the de facto state song of West Virginia, adopted as an official state song by the West Virginia Legislature on March 7, 2014, alongside three other pieces: "West Virginia Hills", "This is My West Virginia", and "West Virginia, My Home Sweet Home".

"Take Me Home, Country Roads" appeared on the LP *Poems, Prayers & Promises* and was released as a 45 in the spring of 1971. It broke nationally in mid-April, but moved up the charts very slowly. After several weeks, RCA Records called John and told him that they were giving up on the single. His response: "No! Keep working on it!" They did, and on August 18 it was certified a million-seller.

Wikipedia



John Denver
Photo from
secondnandsongs.com



Bill Danoff
Photo from
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