

# Unchained Melody

Music by Alex North, lyrics by Hy Zaret © 1955, all rights reserved

*E C#m/G# A B E*  
Oh, my love, my darling, I've hungered for your touch;  
*C#m/G# B B7*

A long, lonely time.

*E C#m/G# A B E*  
Time goes by so slowly and time can do so much;  
*C#m/G# B B7*

Are you still mine?

*E B C#m/G# G#m*  
I need your love, I need your love;  
*A B7 E E7*

God speed your love to me.

*A B A G*  
Lonely rivers flow to the sea, to the sea;

*A B E*  
To the open arms of the sea.

*A B A G*  
Lonely rivers sigh, wait for me, wait for me;

*A B E*  
I'll be coming home, wait for me.

*E C#m/G# A B E*  
Oh, my love, my darling, I've hungered for your touch;  
*C#m/G# B B7*

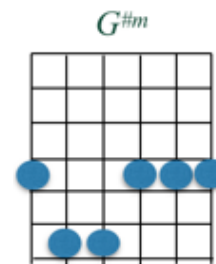
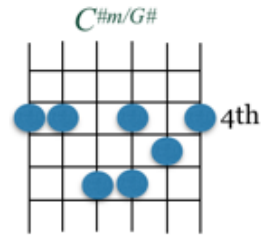
A long, lonely time.

*E C#m/G# A B E*  
Time goes by so slowly and time can do so much;  
*C#m/G# B B7*

Are you still mine.

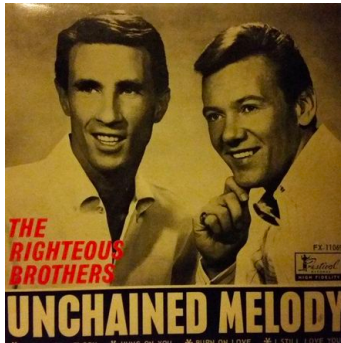
*E B C#m/G# G#m*  
I need your love, I need your love;  
*A B7 E C#m/G# A B E*

God speed your love to-me.



# History

“Unchained Melody” is a 1955 song with music by Alex North and lyrics by Hy Zaret. North used the music as a theme for the little-known prison film *Unchained*, hence the name. It has since become a standard and one of the most recorded songs of the 20th century, most notably by the Righteous Brothers.



The July 1965 version by the Righteous Brothers, performed as a solo by Bobby Hatfield, became a jukebox standard for the late 20th century. According to the song’s publishing administrator, over 1,500 recordings of “Unchained Melody” have been made by more than 670 artists in multiple languages.

By Emmanuel Yogan, 2017, at <https://genius.com/The-righteous-brothers-unchained-melody-lyrics>

**William Stirrat**, aka **Hy Zaret** wrote the lyrics about Mary Louise "Cookie" Pierce.



Hy Zaret

Ask anyone over the age of, say, 30, if they remember the song "Unchained Melody" and they will likely begin to sing you the lyrics "Oh, my love, my darling / I've hungered for your touch / A long, lonely time..." The young lyricist who wrote those words waited a long time - 19 years - to hear it performed in public, but when the song finally hit the charts in 1955, it went straight to the top and has been there on and off for almost 50 years. Freehold Township resident William Stirrat, 83, aka Hy Zaret (his pen name), still has a gleam in his eye when he remembers writing the lyrics.



Cookie Pierce

He was 16 years old and infatuated with "the prettiest girl in my neighborhood." He remembers well the frustration of being too shy to act on his feelings - the stuttered response when she spoke to him, the frozen reaction when she smiled at him. "Now, I think she was in love with me, too, but I was too shy to do anything or even talk to her," Stirrat says 67 years later.



Alex North photo by YouTube

Lyricist Hy Zaret also wrote the popular hit novelty song "One Meatball," based on a song popular among Harvard undergraduates.

<http://www.dansher.com/unchained/unchained.html>

**Alex North** (born **Isadore Soifer**, December 4, 1910 – September 8, 1991) was an American composer best known for his many film scores, including *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Viva Zapata!*, *Spartacus*, *Cleopatra*, and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*.

[http://www.thisdayinmusic.com/pages/unchained\\_melody](http://www.thisdayinmusic.com/pages/unchained_melody) and Wikipedia