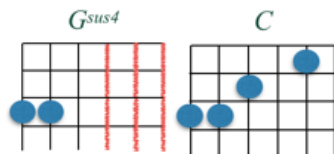


You Are My Sunshine

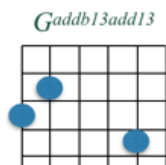
Jimmie Davis and Charles Mitchell with the Peer International Corporation, © 1940 and 1977

CHORUS

G^{6sus4} *C*
You are my sunshine;
G^{6addb13} *C* *C*⁷
My only sunshine.



F
You make me happy;
C *C*⁷
When skies are grey.



F
You'll never know, dear,
C *A*^m
How much I love you.
C *G*⁷ *F*⁷ *C*
Please don't take my sunshine away.

G^{6sus4} *C*
The other night, dear,
G^{6addb13} *C* *C*⁷
As I lay sleeping;
F *C* *C*⁷
I dreamed I held you in my arms.
F
When I awoke, dear,
C *A*^m
I was mistaken;
C *G*⁷ *F*⁷ *C*
And I hung my head and cried.

CHORUS

History

"You Are My Sunshine" copyright is held by country music singer and former two term Governor of Louisiana (1944–1948 and 1960–1964) Jimmie Davis and Charles Mitchell with the Peer International Corporation, 1940 and 1977.

Virginia Shehee, a long-time Davis family friend and member of the Louisiana State Senate from 1976 to 1980, introduced legislation to make "You Are My Sunshine" the official state song.

G^{6sus4} *C*
Louisiana;
G^{6addb13} *C* *C*⁷
My Louisiana;
F *C* *C*⁷
The place where I was borne.
F
White fields of cotton;
C *A*^m
Green fields clover,
C *G*⁷ *F*⁷ *C*
The best fishing and long tall corn.

CHORUS

G^{6sus4} *C*
Crawfish gumbo,
G^{6addb13} *C* *C*⁷
And jambalaya;
F *C* *C*⁷
The biggest shrimp and sugar cane;
F
The finest oysters;
C *A*^m
And sweet strawberries;
C *G*⁷ *F*⁷ *C*
Toledo Bend to New Orleans.

CHORUS



Jimmy Davis, YouTube Photo

The song has been covered so often, that it is one of the most commercially programmed numbers in American popular music. The song, originally country Music, has virtually lost its country music identity,

and represents both the national flowering of country music and its eventual absorption into the mainstream of American popular culture. The 1940 version by Davis was added to the National Recording Registry in the Library of Congress on March 21, 2013 for long-term preservation.

While Davis and Mitchell are the credited songwriters of "You Are My Sunshine", Davis was never known to actually claim authorship, as he bought the song and rights from Paul Rice and put his own name on it, a practice not uncommon in the pre-World War II music business. Some early versions of the song credit the Rice Brothers.

Wikipedia

Contrary claims notwithstanding, Oliver Hood wrote "You Are My Sunshine." He wrote the words to the song on the back of a brown paper sack, which his children still possess, and he first performed the song at a VFW convention in LaGrange in 1933; he sang it through a megaphone out of a hotel window, singing no less than twenty verses, most of which are lost. Never did the thought of copyrighting that music ever come to his mind - until "You Are My Sunshine" rose to the top of the music charts in 1940. It was then that Oliver Hood began copyrighting his music - one song too late. In 1957, at the urging of one of his sons, he wrote and copyrighted "Somebody Stole My Sunshine Away," a song about the theft of "You Are My Sunshine." The chorus from this little known sequel:

Somewhere the sun is shining,
But there's rain in my heart today.
There's no denying
My heart keeps crying -
Somebody stole my sunshine away.

Georgia State University professor Wayne Daniel writes in *Pickin' on Peachtree*: "Mr. Hood was a musician and music teacher widely know in the west Georgia area. Surviving family members and musical associates are adamant in their assertion that Mr. Hood wrote the song. Those whom I interviewed consistently place the time of the composition as the early 1930s." To the people of west Georgia, as Professor Daniel concedes, the song's origin has never been a mystery. The author of "You Are My Sunshine" was Oliver Hood, my grandfather.

Theodore Pappas, based on research by Daniel and Toru Mitsui professor of English at Kanazawa University, and Japan's foremost scholar on country music.

www.ChroniclesMagazine.org). And <http://www.rosemontrecords.com/historical.html>



Oliver Hood, (in the foreground), from <http://www.rosemontrecords.com/>