

Kumbaya ~ Come By Here

Gullah Spiritual ~ a simple appeal to God to come by here

Sing Along with As You Go @ https://static.wixstatic.com/mp3/055bba_2d01ccef390436baee1d69975a8f851.m4a

C F C
Kumbaya my Lord, kumbaya.

C Em Dm/A Asus4 G6
Kumbaya my Lord, kumba - - ya.

C F C F
Kumbaya my Lord, kumbaya;

F C G6 C
Oh Lord, kumbaya.

Someone's crying, Lord, come by here.
Someone's crying, Lord, come by here.
Someone's crying, Lord, come by here;
Oh Lord, come by here;

Someone's praying, Lord, kumbaya.
Someone's praying, Lord, kumbaya.
Someone's praying, Lord, kumbaya;
Oh Lord, kumbaya.

Someone's singing Lord, come by here.
Someone's singing Lord, come by here.
Someone's singing Lord, come by here;
Oh Lord, come by here.

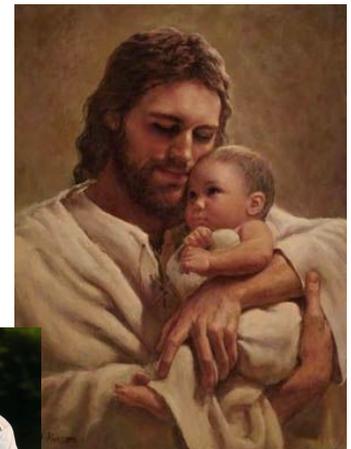
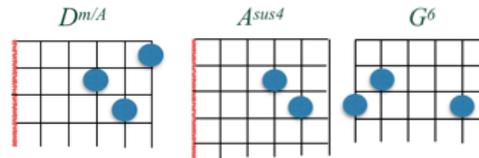
Someone's laughing, Lord, kumbaya.
Someone's laughing, Lord, kumbaya.
Someone's laughing, Lord, kumbaya;
Oh Lord, kumbaya.

Kumbaya my Lord, come by here.
Kumbaya my Lord, come by here.
Kumbaya my Lord, come by here;
Oh Lord, come by here.

Key ~ Cmaj

Tempo ~ 100bpm

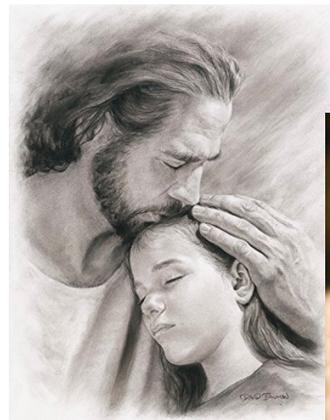
Time ~ 4/4



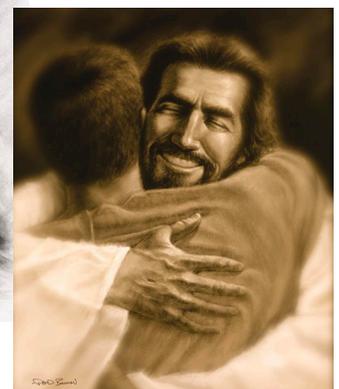
Jesus by Del Parson



billygraham.org



My Child by David Bowman



Jesus by David Bowman

History

“**Oh Lord, Kumbaya**” Also spelled *kum ba yah*, *cumbayah*, *kumbaya*, and probably a few other ways. If you look in a good songbook you'll find the word helpfully translated as "come by here".

Kumbaya apparently originated with the Gullah, Americans living on the Sea Islands and adjacent coastal regions of South Carolina and Georgia. The best known Sea Island is Hilton Head, the resort area. Having lived in isolation for hundreds of years, the Gullah speak a dialect that most native speakers of English

find unintelligible on first hearing but that turns out to be heavily accented English with other stuff mixed in.

The dialect appears in Joel Chandler Harris's "Uncle Remus" stories, to give you an idea what it sounds like. In the



1940s the pioneering linguist Lorenzo Turner showed that the Gullah language was actually a creole consisting of English plus a lot of words and constructions from the languages of west Africa, the Gullahs' homeland. Although long scorned as an ignorant caricature of English, Gullah is actually a language of considerable charm, with expressions like (forgive my poor attempt at expressing these phonetically) *deh clin*, dawn (literally "day clean"); *troot mout*, truthful person ("truth mouth"), and *tebble tappuh*, preacher ("table tapper").

And of course there's *kumbaya*. According to ethnomusicologist Thomas Miller, the song we know began as a Gullah spiritual. Some recordings of it were made in the 1920s, but no doubt it goes back earlier. Published versions began appearing in the 1930s. It's believed an American missionary couple taught the song to the locals in Angola, where its origins were forgotten. The song was then rediscovered in Angola and brought back here in time for the folksinging revival of the 50s and 60s. People might have thought the Gullahs talked funny, but we owe them a vote of thanks. Can you imagine sitting around the campfire singing, "Oh, Lord, come by here"?

Cecil Adams, September 1998

and <http://www.africanamericancharleston.com/gullah.html>