



# Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye

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"**Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye**" is a song written and recorded by Paul Leka, Gary DeCarlo and Dale Frashuer, attributed to a then-fictitious band they named "Steam". It was released under the Mercury subsidiary label Fontana and became a number one pop single on the *Billboard* Hot 100 in late 1969, and remained on the charts in early 1970.<sup>[1]</sup> In 1977, Chicago White Sox organist Nancy Faust began playing the song when White Sox sluggers knocked out the opposing pitcher. The fans would sing and a sports ritual was born. The song's chorus remains well-known, and is still frequently used as a crowd chant at many sporting events. It is generally directed at the losing side in an elimination contest when the outcome is all but certain or when an individual player is ejected or disqualified. It has also been observed by crowds in political rallies to drown out and mock disruptive protesters who are being escorted out by security.

## "Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye"

Song

B-side "It's the Magic in You Girl"

## "Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye"

Song

B-side "Tell Tale Signs"

## Original version

Paul Leka, Gary DeCarlo and Dale Frashuer wrote a blues shuffle version of the song in the early 1960s when they were members of a doo-wop group from Bridgeport, Connecticut, called the Glenwoods, the Citations, and the Chateaus, of which Leka was the piano player. The group disbanded when Leka talked Frashuer into going into New York City with him to write and possibly produce. In 1968, DeCarlo recorded four songs at Mercury Records in New York with Leka as producer. The singles impressed the company's executives, who wanted to issue all of them as A-side singles. In need of a B-side, Leka and DeCarlo resurrected an old song from their days as the Glenwoods, "Kiss Him Goodbye", with their old bandmate, Frashuer.

With DeCarlo as lead vocalist, they recorded the song in one recording session. Instead of using a full band, Leka played keyboards himself and had engineer Warren Dewey splice together a drum track from one of DeCarlo's four singles and a conga drum solo by Ange DiGeronimo recorded in Mr. Leka's Bridgeport, Conn. studio for an entirely different session.<sup>[2]</sup> "I said we should put a chorus to it (to make it longer)", Leka told Fred Bronson in *The Billboard Book of Number One Hits*. "I started writing while I was sitting at the piano going 'na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na'... Everything was 'na na' when you didn't have a lyric." Gary added "hey hey".<sup>[3]</sup> The group that is seen on the album cover and in the old black and white video was a road group that had nothing to do with the recording. The road group was lip syncing to DeCarlo's vocal in the video.

"Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye" reached number one in the United States for two weeks, on December 6 and 13, 1969; it was *Billboard's* final multi-week number 1 hit of the 1960s and also peaked at number twenty on the soul chart.<sup>[4]</sup> In Canada, the song reached number six.<sup>[5]</sup> By the beginning of the 21st century, sales of "Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye" had exceeded 6.5 million records,<sup>[6]</sup> attaining gold record status.

## Covers

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The Supremes included a cover of the song on their 1970 album *New Ways but Love Stays*.

The Belmonts recorded an acappella version, which can be found as a track on their 1972 album *Cigars, Acappella, Candy*.

Dave Clark & Friends released the song in October 1973 under the title "Sha-Na-Na-Na (Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye)" (EMI 2082), but the single didn't chart.

In 1987, Canadian quartet The Nylons released an a cappella version of this song as a single under the shortened title "Kiss Him Goodbye". It became their biggest hit on the *Billboard* Hot 100, peaking at number twelve that summer.<sup>[7]</sup>

The Donna Summer compilation album *Gold* (a 1995 release exclusively for the Netherlands) contains a 3:42 disco cover of the song.

In 2014 the Norwegian artist Adelén used the chorus line of the song on her World Cup song "Olé." The song was one of the tracks on the *One Love, One Rhythm - The 2014 FIFA World Cup Official Album*. The song peaked at number #3 in Norway.

"Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye" bears a resemblance to the coda of the 1968 Beatles' "Na Na Hey Jude".

## Bananarama

In February 1983, UK girl group Bananarama released the song as a single from their album *Deep Sea Skiving*. This version became a top ten hit in the United Kingdom (#5), but only a minor hit in the US (Billboard #101) later that year.

This was the fifth single released from their first album in 1983. It peaked at number five in the UK singles chart, and number 38 in Australia on the Kent Music Report chart.<sup>[8]</sup>

### Track listing

#### UK & USA 7" vinyl single

*UK: London Records NANA 4; USA: London Records 810 115-7*

1. "Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye" 3:22
2. "Tell Tale Signs" 2:58

#### UK 12" vinyl single

1. "Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye" (Extended Version) 4:52
2. "Na Na Hey Hey Na (Dub) Hey" 4:12
3. "Tell Tale Signs" (Extended Version) 4:46

## Music video

The music video features the band playing in a school playground and then being made to move by a group of lads. They then decide to join a boxing club so the video features them singing the song whilst boxing. By the end of the video they return to the playground wearing leathers and this time make the group of lads move away. They then ride off into the night on motorbikes.

## In popular culture

The song is sang acapella by the crowd in hockey games in Canada (specially in Montreal) by the end of games in order to say *goodbye* to the losing team.

On January 23, 2006, Paul Martin was defeated by Stephen Harper as Prime Minister of Canada. Martin had acceded to the prime ministry following the ouster of Jean Chrétien. The next day's issue of La Voix de l'Est, a French newspaper in Granby, Quebec, included a cartoon by Paquette showing Chrétien calling Martin and singing *Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye*. This cartoon demonstrates that the impact of the song did not stop at the U.S. border, and its impact also went beyond the English-speaking world.



The Paquette cartoon shows Jean Chrétien taunting Paul Martin by singing *Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye*

At the 2009 and 2017 Presidential Inaugurations, some audiences were chanting 'Na na na na' to the departing Presidents, respectively George W. Bush and Barack Obama.<sup>[9]</sup>

On May 4, 2017, after the House of Representatives voted to pass the American Health Care Act which partially repealed Obamacare, Democratic representatives chanted "Na na na na, hey hey, goodbye" to Republican representatives, implying that in voting for the bill, they would lose their House seats in the next election. DeCarlo was happy to hear of the song getting renewed exposure, but said he opposed Obamacare.<sup>[10]</sup> It was not the first time the song had been sung in Congress; in 1993, after Democrats voted for then-President Bill Clinton's tax bill, House Republicans sung "Goodbye".<sup>[11]</sup>

## References

1. "Steam Biography" (<http://www.pandora.com/music/artist/steam>). Pandora Internet Radio. Retrieved May 16, 2011.
2. Paul Leka confirmed some months before his death that the conga solo was in fact Mr. DiGeronimo's. It had been recorded in Bridgeport as part of a session with the band "Yazoo Fraud," then under contract with Mr. Leka's production company.
3. Bronson, Fred (2003). *The Billboard Book of Number One Hits*.
4. Whitburn, Joel (2004). *Top R&B/Hip-Hop Singles: 1942–2004*. Record Research. p. 550.

5. "RPM100" (<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/028020/f2/nlc008388.6125.pdf>) (PDF). *Collectionscanada.gc.ca*. December 27, 1969. Retrieved July 1, 2017.
6. "Steam's Gary DeCarlo of 'Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye' Fame Dead at 75" (<https://www.rollingstone.com/music/news/gary-decarlo-of-na-na-hey-hey-kiss-him-goodbye-fame-dead-w490246>). *Rolling Stone*. Retrieved October 10, 2017.
7. Whitburn, Joel (2004). *The Billboard Book of Top 40 Hits (8th edition)*. Record Research. p. 464.
8. Kent, David (1993). *Australian Chart Book 1970–1992* (Illustrated ed.). Sydney: Australian Chart Book. p. 25. ISBN 0-646-11917-6.
9. "Flashback: Bush booed, mocked by 'Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye' song at '09 Obama inaugural" (<http://www.theblaze.com/news/2017/01/20/flashback-bush-booed-mocked-by-na-na-hey-hey-kiss-him-goodbye-song-at-09-obama-inaugural>). *The Blaze*. January 20, 2017.
10. Ken Stone. "'Hey Hey, Goodbye' songman liked Dems' House chant, not Obamacare" (<http://mynews1a.com/hollywood/2017/05/04/hey-hey-goodbye-songman-liked-dems-house-chant-not-obamacare>). MyNewsLA.com. May 4, 2017.
11. Haag, Matthew (May 4, 2017). "Democrats Taunt Republicans With 'Hey, Hey, Hey, Goodbye' During Health Vote" (<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/04/us/politics/democrats-sing-na-na-hey-hey-good-bye-health-care-bill-vote.html>) – via NYTimes.com.

## External links

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- [Template:MetroLyrics song](#)
  - [Video \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsaTElBljOE\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsaTElBljOE) on YouTube
  - [Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye on theoriginals \(nl\) \(http://www originals.be/nl/originals/9890\)](http://www originals.be/nl/originals/9890)
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