

Tune into English: Frank Sinatra's My Way [B1]

Concepito come coronamento della brillante traiettoria del cantante di origini italiane, questo brano rivendicativo e pieno di orgoglio è diventato una specie di inno per ogni tipo di commiato.



Frank Sinatra's **signature song** My Way began life as European hit Comme d'habitude (As Usual), a 1967 **break-up** song by French superstar Claude François, to music by Jacques Revaux. Canadian singer-songwriter Paul Anka heard the song while **holidaying** in Paris and acquired its rights. A few months on he had dinner with Sinatra in Florida. The music legend, then in his **early fifties**, announced that he was considering **retirement**, **reportedly** telling Anka: "**I'm quitting** the business. I'm **sick** of it, I'm **getting the hell out**." This inspired Anka to **stay up** all night adapting François' track about the death of love through routine into a celebratory **swan song** for Sinatra. He did so by asking himself, "If Frank were writing this, what would he say?". The result was recorded by Sinatra in just **one take** on 30 December 1968. In fact, a different English version of the song already existed. Revaux had sent his melody to London, looking for someone to adapt it into an English-language song. A young David Bowie wrote and recorded a **demo**, but it was rejected. In My Way, Sinatra looks

back on his life and all its [ups and downs](#). He declares [pride](#) in taking responsibility for all the decisions that he has made. My Way has spent more time on the UK [charts](#) than any other song (124 weeks), and Elvis Presley's live recording of the song was [released](#) in the weeks after his death. Other cover versions include those by Aretha Franklin and by Sid Vicious of The Sex Pistols. Donald Trump chose My Way as his first dance at his 2017 presidential inauguration, and it is also extremely popular at funerals.

[Despite](#) its phenomenal success, Sinatra disliked the song, calling it "[self-serving](#) and self-indulgent". **My Way** And now, the end is near And so I face the final curtain My friend, I'll say it clear I'll [state my case](#), of which I'm [certain](#) I've lived a life that's full I travelled each and every highway And more, much more than this I did it my way [Regrets](#), I've had a few But then again, too few to mention I did what I had to do And saw it through without exemption I planned each [charted course](#) Each careful step along the [byway](#) And more, much more than this I did it my way Yes, there were times, I'm sure you knew When I bit off more than I could chew But through it all, when there was doubt I [ate it up](#) and spit it out I faced it all, and I stood tall And did it my way I've loved, I've laughed and cried I've had my fill, my share of losing And now, as tears [subside](#) I find it all so [amusing](#) To think I did all that And may I say, not in a [shy](#) way Oh, no, oh, no, not me I did it my way For what is a man, what has he got? If not himself, then he has naught To say the things he [truly](#) feels And not the words of one who [kneels](#) The record shows I took the blows And did it my way Yes, it was my way

Glossary

- **self-serving** = egoista
- **signature song** = canzone simbolo
- **reportedly** = a quanto pare
- **swan song** = canto del cigno
- **ups and downs** = alti e bassi
- **released** = pubblicare
- **shy** = timida
- **truly** = davvero
- **retirement** = pensionamento
- **stay up** = stare sveglio
- **one take** = registrazione
- **state my case** = state my case: this means to express your opinion and present the evidence in your favour, as if on a trial.
- **kneels** = inginocchiarsi
- **holidaying** = essere in vacanza
- **getting the hell out** = andarsene
- **pride** = orgoglio
- **certain** = sicuro
- **Regrets** =
- **break-up** = separazione
- **early fifties** = sulla cinquantina
- **Despite** = malgrado
- **byway** = strada secondaria
- **sick** = stufo
- **demo**, = dimostrazione audio
- **charts** = classifiche
- **subside** = placarsi
- **amusing** = divertente
- **I'm quitting** = lasciare
- **charted course** = percorso tracciato
- **ate it up** = mangiare