

= Kicks ( song ) =

" Kicks " is a song by American rock band Paul Revere & the Raiders . Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil wrote the song for The Animals , but the band 's lead singer Eric Burdon turned it down . Instead , Paul Revere & The Raiders recorded and released it as a single in 1966 . The single was a number one hit in Canada , and reached number four in the United States . " Kicks " was included on the band 's fifth album , Midnight Ride , released in May 1966 . A live version of the song was recorded on the band 's 1996 Greatest Hits Live compilation album .

Considered one of the earliest anti @-@ drug songs , " Kicks " was composed and released during an era in which pro @-@ hippie , pro @-@ experimentation , and other counterculture themes were gaining popularity on U.S. FM radio stations . The song 's message was consequently perceived as outdated by the emerging youth counterculture , as popular artists ranging from The Beatles to Jefferson Airplane had written songs whose themes sharply contrasted that of " Kicks . " However , the song has received generally positive reviews by music critics in the decades since its release . In 2004 , " Kicks " was ranked number 400 on Rolling Stone 's list of The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time .

= = Background and composition = =

After the Animals had chart success with the 1965 single " We Gotta Get Out of This Place , " producer Terry Melcher asked the song 's writers , Mann and Weil , to compose a similar song for Paul Revere & the Raiders . The result was " Kicks , " a song originally offered to the Animals , but turned down by lead singer Eric Burdon . Mann and Weil wrote the song as a warning to a friend about the dangers of drug use . The lyrics consist of a narrator telling a girl that drug use causes addiction and that soft drugs can lead to the use of hard drugs . Musically , the song 's lead guitar lines recall the Beatles , while its bass figures are similar to those popularized by The Byrds . The song contains closer harmonies and a more euphonious melodic arrangement than the band 's previous single , " Just Like Me " . Lead singer Mark Lindsay 's R & B vocal style , combined with the song 's guitar and organ instrumentation , is reminiscent of British bands such as The Kinks and The Yardbirds .

= = Release and reception = =

In March 1966 , " Kicks " entered the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 chart at number 62 . The song peaked at number four in May , and spent 14 weeks on the chart . Within two months of its release , the single had sold 500 @,@ 000 copies . It was the highest @-@ charting U.S. hit to that date for Paul Revere & the Raiders , later eclipsed only by 1971 's " Indian Reservation ( The Lament of the Cherokee Reservation Indian ) , " which peaked at number one . " Kicks " became the band 's first Canadian number one single when it topped the Canadian Singles Chart in May 1966 .

The song is considered the first with an anti @-@ drug message to become a U.S. hit single . With the passage of the Communications Act of 1934 , the Federal Communications Commission was chartered to monitor the radio and TV industries , meaning broadcasts were subject to censorship . Some censors , based on the song title alone , mistakenly believed " Kicks " to glorify drug use . Despite the song 's commercial success , its lyrics were soon perceived as outdated by young people , as they increasingly experimented with marijuana and LSD . Meanwhile , songs emerged from popular artists who praised , sometimes cryptically and sometimes overtly , the use of psychedelic drugs . These acts included the Beatles , The Rolling Stones , the Grateful Dead , Jefferson Airplane and the Byrds . The messages contained within hit songs such as " White Rabbit , " " Along Comes Mary " and " Eight Miles High " were antithetical to that of " Kicks , " which contributed to a perception by members of the burgeoning youth counterculture that Paul Revere & the Raiders were part of the Establishment . Singer ? songwriter David Crosby , then a member of the Byrds , was upset with the success of the song , particularly as it came just after his group 's " Eight Miles High " had been boycotted by many U.S. radio stations . Crosby described " Kicks " as "

a dumb anti @-@ drug song " that took " a falsely adopted stance . With ' Eight Miles High , ' we were talking about something very near and dear to our hearts . "

On the other hand , Beach Boys founder Brian Wilson singled out " Kicks " as one his favorites of Terry Melcher 's works . Music critic Chris Brown of Crawdaddy ! praised the song 's vocal , saying " the use of harmony is well @-@ timed and wonderfully executed ; and the power in the vocal as the last word of each verse stretches into the chorus is undoubtedly what sells the song . " Bruce Eder of AllMusic called it " a great song that managed to be cool and anti @-@ drug . " In his 2009 book , Everybody Must Get Stoned , author R. U. Sirius named " Kicks " the number one rock song against drugs . Sirius said , " With clear and concise lyrics by the famous Mann @-@ Weil songwriting team , there 's no cheese on rock 's first anti @-@ drug platter . " The song was ranked number 400 on Rolling Stone 's 2004 list of The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time . The song placed 36th on Paste Magazine 's 2014 list of the " 50 Best Garage Rock Songs of All Time " .

= = Other versions = =

Paul Revere & the Raiders performed a live version of " Kicks " on the band 's 1996 Greatest Hits Live compilation . Lindsay , with the Mark Lewis Trio , re @-@ recorded the song on the 1990 album Looking for Shelter . A live version appears on his 1999 album Legends Live : Mark Lindsay & Friends . Former bass guitarist Phil Volk , with his band Fang & the Gang , performed the song on the 2005 tribute album Fang Reveres the Raiders . Mann and Weil revisited the song in their 2004 Off Broadway revue They Wrote That ? The Songs of Barry Mann & Cynthia Weil .

Singer @-@ songwriter Del Shannon recorded a cover of " Kicks " on his 1966 album This Is My Bag . Surf rock group The Challengers covered the song on their album California Kicks , also released in 1966 . The Leathercoated Minds , a studio band featuring J. J. Cale on guitar and production , performed the song on their 1968 album A Trip Down the Sunset Strip . Psychedelic rock band Nazz covered the song on their final album Nazz III . In 1974 , John Mellencamp was signed to MCA Records after Mellencamp recorded a demo on which he performed the song . Rock band Earth Quake recorded a version of the song on their 1977 album Levelled . Leif Garrett covered " Kicks " on his 1979 album Same Goes for You . Naz Nomad and the Nightmares , a side project featuring members of punk band The Damned , covered the song on their 1984 album Give Daddy the Knife Cindy . The Monkees included their version of the song on their 1986 greatest hits compilation Then & Now ... The Best of The Monkees . Rock band The Flamin ' Groovies released " Kicks " as a single from their 1986 album One Night Stand . In 1999 , jazz guitarist Mimi Fox released the album Kicks , on which her rendition of the song appears . Garage rock band The Gants added a version of the song on their 2000 greatest hits album I Wonder . Everclear covered the song on their 2008 album The Vegas Years .

= = Track listing = =

7 " Vinyl

" Kicks " ( Mann , Weil ) ? 2 : 26

" Shake It Up " ( Lindsay , Revere ) ? 3 : 59

= = Personnel = =

Drake Levin - lead guitar , backing vocals

Mark Lindsay - lead vocals

Terry Melcher - producer

Paul Revere - organ , backing vocals

Hal Blaine - drums

Phil Volk - bass guitar , backing vocals

= = Chart performance = =

