

= The Great Otis Redding Sings Soul Ballads =

The Great Otis Redding Sings Soul Ballads , simply referred to as Soul Ballads or Sings Soul Ballads , is the second studio album by American soul singer @-@ songwriter Otis Redding , released in 1965 . The album was one of the first issued by Volt Records , a sub @-@ label of Stax Records , and Redding 's first on the new label . Like Redding 's debut Pain in My Heart , Soul Ballads features both soul classics and originals written by Redding and other Stax Records recording artists . The recording sessions took place at the Stax studios in Memphis . The album features a stereo mixer made by engineer Tom Dowd , replacing the early mono mixer .

The album features the Booker T. & the M.G. ' s , the horn section Memphis Horns and the pianist Isaac Hayes , who possibly first appeared on this album , although this is disputed , as he was not credited on the liner notes . Unlike Redding 's debut album , Sings Soul Ballads was released both on Atlantic 's subsidiary Atco Records and Stax 's Volt Records . While the album and its singles were moderately successful on the music charts , it includes Redding 's first top @-@ ten single , " Mr. Pitiful " . The album received mixed critical reception .

= = Recording = =

The recording session took place at the Stax studios in Memphis . Guitarist Steve Cropper and Stax producer Jim Stewart both agreed with engineer Tom Dowd 's decision to install a two @-@ track recorder during the recording of " Mr. Pitiful " . The stereo four @-@ input Ampex mixer is used throughout the album , which means that the instrumentation is either in one channel or the other , but the vocals and echo are in only one channel . This is different for mono recordings , where only one channel is used . Sings Soul Ballads features Booker T. & the M.G. ' s organist Booker T. Jones , pianist / guitarist Steve Cropper , bassist Donald " Duck " Dunn , drummer Al Jackson , Jr . , and the Memphis Horns , consisting of trumpeter Wayne Jackson , tenor saxophonist Charles " Packy " Axton and baritone saxophonist Floyd Newman . The album contains 12 songs , the majority of which are , as the album 's name implies , soul ballads .

The album opens with " That 's How Strong My Love Is " . Written by Roosevelt Jamison and altered by Cropper , the song was first performed by O. V. Wright on Goldwax Records , where the song was cut by both Jamison and Wright . Redding 's version was released days after the original . The Rolling Stones covered the song shortly afterward and included it on their album Out of Our Heads . Isaac Hayes made his debut as a pianist with Otis Redding , possibly on songs " Come to Me " or " Security " . It is unclear because prior to 1966 , the Memphis Musicians Union kept little or no sessions documentation ; Fantasy Records , who bought Stax in 1977 , has none at all prior to 1966 . That Hayes debuted in 1964 with Redding is known ; which song remains in question . " Come to Me " , Redding 's fourth Volt single , was written by Cropper and Phil Walden and became the second song after the Volt session not to feature a horn section . The song is a typical 6 / 8 ballad and features piano triplets , including an organ . The single peaked at number 69 on Billboard 's Hot 100 chart .

" Mr. Pitiful " was recorded in December 1964 at the Stax studios . The song was written by both guitarist Steve Cropper and Redding , and was their first collaboration . It was inspired by and written as a response to a statement made by radio disc jockey Moohah Williams , who had nicknamed Redding " Mr. Pitiful " for sounding pitiful when singing ballads . Cropper heard about this and , while taking a shower , got the idea it would make a good song . In the car on the way to the studio , Cropper proposed the idea with a melody already in mind , humming it to Redding . By the time they reached the studio , the song was written and they recorded it in two or three takes . It was released as a single with the B @-@ side " That 's How Strong My Love Is " . The song became a hit and the album 's most successful track , peaking at number 10 on the Billboard R & B and at number 41 on Billboard Hot 100 chart .

= = Release = =

Sings Soul Ballads was released on March 1965 , with four of the songs from the album chosen to be released as singles . Unlike Redding 's first studio album , Pain in My Heart , the album was released both on Atlantic 's subsidiary Atco Records and Stax 's Volt Records . A remastered CD and CS version was released by Atco on the Elektra label in 1991 . On March 8 , 2002 , 4 Men With Beards released a vinyl version . Rhino / Atlantic issued a digital download release in the MP3 format on July 29 , 2008 .

= = Reception = =

Sings Soul Ballads received mixed critical reception . Lindsay Planer from Allmusic gave a mixed review of the album . While she liked " That 's How Strong My Love Is " , Chuck Willis ' " It 's Too Late " , " For Your Precious Love " (previously a hit by The Impressions) , Sam Cooke 's " Nothing Can Change This Love " , and Cropper 's / Redding 's " Mr. Pitiful " , she was less enthusiastic about " Chained and Bound " , " I Want to Thank You " and " A Woman , a Lover , a Friend " , which mimic aspects of Cooke 's sound . The second was compared with " Another Saturday Night " , the latter with " Everybody Loves to Cha Cha Cha " . She gave the album three of five stars . The Rolling Stone Album Guide , on the other hand , gave the album five stars .

= = Track listing = =

= = Personnel = =

Credits are taken from The Great Otis Redding Sings Soul Ballads 's liner notes .

= = = Musicians = = =

Otis Redding ? vocals
Booker T. Jones ? keyboards , organ , piano
Isaac Hayes ? keyboards , piano
Steve Cropper ? guitar , keyboards , piano
Johnny Jenkins ? guitar
Donald Dunn ? bass
Al Jackson , Jr . ? drums
Wayne Jackson ? trumpet
Sammie Coleman ? trumpet
Floyd Newman ? baritone saxophone
Charles Axton ? tenor saxophone

= = = Production = = =

Paul Ackerman ? liner notes
Yves Beauvais ? reissue producer
Loring Eutemey ? artwork
Dan Hersch ? remastering
Bill Inglot ? remastering
Jim Stewart ? production

= = Charts = =