

= Band on the Run (song) =

" Band on the Run " is the title song of Paul McCartney and Wings ' 1973 album Band on the Run . The song was released as a single in 1974 , following the success of " Jet " , and became an international chart success . The song topped the charts in the United States , also reaching number 3 in the United Kingdom . The single sold over one million copies in 1974 in America . It has since become one of the band 's most famous songs .

A medley of song fragments that vary in style from folk rock to funk , " Band on the Run " is one of McCartney 's longest singles at 5 : 09 . The song was partly inspired by a comment that George Harrison had made during a meeting of the Beatles ' Apple record label . The song @-@ wide theme is one of freedom and escape , and its creation coincided with Harrison , John Lennon and Ringo Starr having parted with manager Allen Klein in March 1973 , leading to improved relations between McCartney and his fellow ex @-@ Beatles . The original demos for this and other tracks on Band on the Run were stolen shortly after Wings arrived in Lagos , Nigeria , to begin recording the album . With the band reduced to a trio consisting of McCartney , his wife Linda , and Denny Laine , " Band on the Run " was recorded at EMI 's Lagos studio and completed at AIR Studios in London .

= = Background = =

In a 1973 interview with Paul Gambaccini , McCartney stated that the lyric " if we ever get out of here " was inspired by a remark made by George Harrison during one of the Beatles ' many business meetings . McCartney recalled : " He was saying that we were all prisoners in some way [due to the ongoing problems with their company Apple] ? I thought it would be a nice way to start an album . " McCartney added , referring to his inspiration for " Band on the Run " : " It 's a million things ? all put together . Band on the run ? escaping , freedom , criminals . You name it , it 's there . "

In a 1988 interview with Musician magazine , McCartney noted the drug busts musicians of the late 1960s and early 1970s experienced as an inspiration for the " Band on the Run " , also referencing the " desperado " image he attributed to bands like the Byrds and the Eagles as an influence . McCartney , who had been having legal trouble involving pot possession , said , " We were being outlawed for pot ... And our argument on [' Band on the Run '] was ' Don 't put us on the wrong side ... We 're not criminals , we don 't want to be . So I just made up a story about people breaking out of prison . ' "

According to Mojo contributor Tom Doyle , the song 's lyrics , recalled through memory following the robbery of the band 's demo tapes for the Band on the Run album , were altered to reflect on the band 's then @-@ current status , " stuck inside the four walls of the small , cell @-@ like studio , faced with grim uncertainty . "

" Nineteen Hundred and Eighty @-@ Five " , the closing track of the Band on the Run album , concludes with a brief excerpt of the chorus .

= = = Composition = = =

" Band on the Run " is a three @-@ part medley , with the first section being a slow ballad , the second featuring a funk rock style , and the final a country @-@ esque section . The lyrics of the entire song , however , are related , with all being based around a general theme of freedom and escape .

= = Recording = =

The original demo recording for " Band on the Run " , as well as multiple other tracks from the album , was stolen from the McCartneys by a group of thugs while Paul McCartney and Wings were recording in Lagos , Nigeria . Robbed at knife @-@ point , they relinquished the demos , only recovering the songs through memory . Paul McCartney later remarked , " It was stuff that would be

worth a bit on eBay these days , you know ? But no , we figured the guys who mugged us wouldn't even be remotely interested . If they'd have known , they could have just held on to them and made themselves a little fortune . But they didn't know , and we reckoned they'd probably record over them . "

The song was recorded in two parts , in different sessions . The first two were taped in Lagos while the third section was recorded in October 1973 at AIR Studios in London .

= = Release = =

Originally , Paul McCartney planned not to release any singles from *Band on the Run* , a strategy he compared to that used by The Beatles . However , he was convinced by Capitol Records promotion man Al Coury to release singles from the album , resulting in the single release of " Jet " and " Band on the Run " .

" Band on the Run " , backed with " Nineteen Hundred and Eighty @-@ Five " , was released in America on 8 April 1974 as the follow @-@ up single to Paul McCartney and Wings ' top @-@ ten hit " Jet " . The song was a smash hit for the band , becoming McCartney 's third solo American chart @-@ topping single and Wings ' second . The single was later released in Britain (instead backed with " Zoo Gang " , the theme song to the television show of the same name) , reaching number 3 on the British charts . The song was also a top 40 single in multiple European countries , such as the Netherlands (number 7) , Belgium (number 21) , and Germany (number 22) .

The US radio edit was 3 : 50 in length . The difference was largely caused by the removal of the middle or the second part of the song , as well as the verse that starts with " Well , the undertaker drew a heavy sigh ? " .

The single was certified Gold by the Recording Industry Association of America for sales of over one million copies . It was the second of five number @-@ one singles for the band on the Billboard Hot 100 . In 1974 , Billboard ranked it number 22 on its Top Pop Singles year @-@ end chart . Billboard also listed the song as Paul McCartney 's sixth most successful chart hit of all time , excluding Beatles releases .

" Band on the Run " has also been featured on numerous McCartney / Wings compilation albums , including *Wings Greatest* , *All the Best !* , and *Wingspan : Hits and History* . The song is also performed in many of McCartney 's live shows , with a live version being included on the 1976 live album *Wings over America* .

= = Videos = =

An independent film produced by Michael Coulson while he was a college student in the mid 1970s was later included in *The McCartney Years* video compilation as well as the 2010 re @-@ issue of the album *Band on the Run* . It served mostly as a tribute to the Beatles , featuring montages of still pictures from their career . Wings were not shown . The video ends with a collage of Beatles pictures much like the album cover of Sgt. Pepper 's Lonely Hearts Club Band .

In 2014 , a new video for " Band on the Run " was created . The video designed by Ben Ib , an artist who created tour visuals for Paul McCartney (as well as Roger Waters and The Smashing Pumpkins) and the cover for Paul McCartney 's 2013 solo album *New* . In the video , all of the objects , including the " band on the run " itself , are made up of words .

= = Reception = =

The song was praised by former bandmate and songwriting partner , John Lennon , who considered it " a great song and a great album " . In 2014 , Billboard praised " Band on the Run " for having " three distinct parts that don't depend on a chorus yet still manage to feel anthemic . " AllMusic critic Stewart Mason called the track " classic McCartney " , lauding the song for " manag [ing] to be experimental in form yet so deliciously melodic that its structural oddities largely go unnoticed . "

" Band on the Run " also won the Best Pop Vocal Performance by a Duo , Group or Chorus at the 17th Annual Grammy Awards . NME ranked the song as the tenth best song of the 1970s , as well as the fifteenth best solo song by an ex @-@ Beatle . In 2010 , AOL Radio listeners voted " Band on the Run " the best song of Paul McCartney 's solo career , achieving a better ranking than " Maybe I 'm Amazed " and " Silly Love Songs " . In 2012 , Rolling Stone readers ranked the song as McCartney 's fourth best song of all time , behind " Maybe I 'm Amazed " , " Hey Jude " , and " Yesterday " . Rolling Stone readers also ranked the song the fifth best solo song by ex @-@ members of The Beatles .

= = Personnel = =

Paul McCartney ? lead and backing vocals , electric guitar , 12 @-@ string acoustic guitar , bass guitar , drums

Linda McCartney ? backing vocals , keyboards

Denny Laine ? backing vocals , electric guitar

= = Chart performance = =

= = Other appearances = =

The song is featured on Guitar Hero World Tour on the main set list . Both the master recording and a live version were added to the Rock Band series as downloadable content .

" Band on the Run " appeared in the 2014 film Boyhood .

" Band on the Run " appears as diegetic music during the execution of a Khmer Rouge rebel in the 1984 film The Killing Fields .

= = Cover versions = =

Former Wings member Denny Laine covered " Band on the Run " on his 1996 album Wings at the Sound of Denny Laine .

A cover version by Owsley was included on the 2001 tribute album Listen to What the Man Said .

A cover version was recorded in 2007 by Foo Fighters as their contribution to the Radio 1 Established 1967 album .

On 1 June 2008 McCartney was joined onstage by Foo Fighters lead singer Dave Grohl for a special performance in Liverpool . Grohl played guitar and sang backing vocals on " Band on the Run " and then played drums on Beatles songs " Back in the U.S.S.R. " and " I Saw Her Standing There " . Grohl later performed the song with Paul 's band in 2010 at the White House , when Paul was given the Gershwin Award .

A cover version by Heart was included on the 2014 tribute album The Art of McCartney .