

Kumbaya

Music and lyrics: Walter J. Kin (RIGLI)

Country Blues recording - representative opening chorus and first verse

A - Opening chorus

♩ = 94

Chords: Cm, C, Fm, Cm

Pitch unclear

8 Kumbaya my Lord Little song I

5 Oh Lord Oh Oh Lord Kumbaya

Chords: Cm, Cm, Pitch unclear, Cm, Cm

B - Verse 1

9 I grew up At home they

Chords: Cm, Fm, G, Cm

13 No grudges share Our school was I thought the

Chords: Cm, Fm, Cm, Cm

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17 Cm Fm G Cm

Every argument was No one ever

21 Cm Fm G Cm

But life had

25 C C G G G

Pitch unclear Pitch unclear Pitch unclear

They stayed themselves And I still

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[Chorus]

Kumbaya my Lord Oh Kumbaya
Little song I sing to skyya
Oh Lord Oh Lord Kumbaya
Oh Lord Kumbaya

[Verse 1]

I grew up on a block where garages owned the street
At home they told me keep it real don't ever cheat
No grudges share whatever treasure you have got
Our school was rough it was never a greenhouse spot
I thought the folks around me were my ride or die team
Every argument was a draw no trick no scheme
No one ever swung low or hit me cheap at all
But life had flipped the whole script on me after all
They stayed themselves and I stayed me we drifted so far
And I still sing my song beneath the shining star

[Chorus]

Kumbaya my Lord Oh Kumbaya
Little song I sing to skyya
Oh Lord Oh Lord Kumbaya
Oh Lord Kumbaya

[Verse 2]

It went like this you slid into my feed and said hi
You hit me up I said come through don't ask me why
Two weeks of memes and long coffee chats every night
I blinked and suddenly you moved in it felt so right
When you were leaving I was sipping tea alone
You stepped in the hall said goodbye in a gentle tone
You said moving on was honest you had set me free
You are you and I am me that's how it had to be
What we shared before became a memory in my mind
Like morning fog that slowly fades and leaves no trace behind

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[Chorus]

Kumbaya my Lord Oh Kumbaya
Little song I sing to skyya
Oh Lord Oh Lord Kumbaya
Oh Lord Kumbaya

[Bridge]

They forget me so I lift my voice Kumbaya
They betray me and I still raise my voice Kumbaya
They tap their temples and call me crazy on the fly
I need something just to keep my spirits flying high
Not lofty hymns or quotes from sages days gone by
No heavy books no ancient answers from the sky
But something simple maybe silly little rhyme
A bit of nonsense walking with me all the time
When I'm broken down and my spirit is left bare
I breathe out and repeat the words just like a prayer

[Chorus]

Kumbaya my Lord Oh Kumbaya
Little song I sing to skyya
Oh Lord Oh Lord Kumbaya
Oh Lord Kumbaya

[Outro]

Kumbaya my Lord Oh Kumbaya
Little song I sing to skyya
Oh Lord Oh Lord Kumbaya
Oh Lord Kumbaya

Reading notes

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Scope

Representative lead sheet: opening chorus (approximately 0:02-0:23) and first verse (0:34-1:28). Later verses and choruses contain their own recorded variations. Short phrase-opening cues refer to the complete approved lyrics that follow.

Source

Owner-supplied Country Blues master, October 14, 2026. Exact WAV length 289.601519 s. SHA-256 03636a1f48b1643e4e96cb286bccf7a3379d0531a9acf65f8aeffeafcf5a7c.

Method

Vocal, bass and accompaniment separated locally with Demucs htdemucs. Melody estimates combine Basic Pitch ONNX and wide-range pYIN. A third estimator, CREPE full, checks the gravelly opening chorus and low-register verse ending. No octave transposition is applied to the source pitches.

Measured local beat positions are mapped to readable sixteenths; 4/4 and approximately 94 BPM are editorial local measurements, not a change to the source catalog tempo of 88 BPM. The opening beat grid is extrapolated.

Chord roots use bass evidence; major/minor qualities use isolated accompaniment. All chord symbols are provisional estimates, marked amber.

Short approved phrase-opening cues are approximate. No syllable timing is asserted. Longer gaps are explicitly marked Pitch unclear (bars 3, 6, 25, 26, 28). These are not confirmed sung rests. Check phrasing against the recording. The lyrics pages are unchanged.

How to read this draft

Amber notes and chord symbols mark uncertain estimates. The score requires musical review against the recording. The MIDI is synthesized from this notation, not a supplied performance source.

Lyrics

The lyrics pages preserve the source text unchanged. Any underlay in the notation is approximate; the source text remains authoritative.