

White Christmas

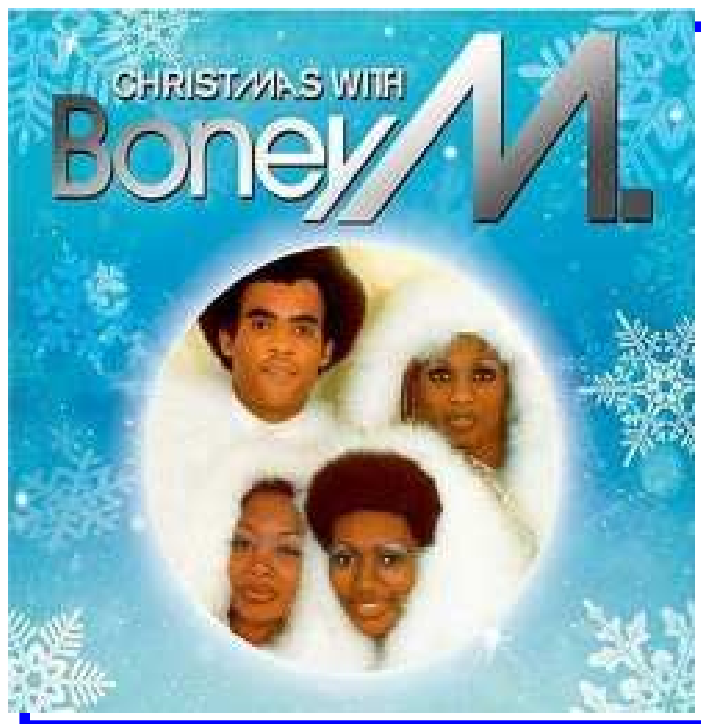
Backgrounds Of S. Radic

Boney M. is a disco formation produced by Frank Farian, which had international success especially in the 1970s with pieces like *Daddy Cool*, *Rivers of Babylon* and *Ma Baker*. Boney M. has sold over 150 million records worldwide, including more than 60 million singles.

When Farian recorded the title *Baby Do You Wanna Bump* with a deep, studio manipulated voice and high falsetto phases at the Europa Sound Studio in Offenbach in December 1974, he did not want to release it under his own name. The single appeared in February 1975 with the inscription Boney M. as interpreter and was sold about 500 times per week. There was no photo of the group on their cover. Only then did Farian find a motley troupe through the artist agency Katja Wolfe. "There was a high turnover of personnel in 1975, when Sheila Bonnick, Mike, Nathalie and Claudja Barry came and went. Stability did not begin until February 1976, when the formation consisted of Bobby Farrell, Maizie Williams, Marcia Barrett, and Liz Mitchell. All were born in the Caribbean and came to Europe as children or adolescents. Only Liz Mitchell and Marcia Barrett passed the vocal tests in the studio. As Farian in *Jugendmaga-zin Bravo* confirmed, Maizie Williams also did not sing in the studio "because her voice did not fit for this kind of music". Vocal and instrumental was helped by studio musicians (like Kurt "Supermax" Hauenstein). Only at live performances they sang their hits. The vocally weak troupe appeared in daring costumes and had to improve their moderate choreography.

After personnel constancy was present, Farian could begin with the recordings for the debut album *Take The Heat off Me*. The single *Daddy Cool* was released on May 31, 1976 as a premature release from this album and initially had no special resonance. Farian finally succeeded in placing the inexperienced group next to Dave Edmunds or Edwin Starr in the 28th episode of the music show *Musikladen* on 18 September 1976. Here they presented *Daddy Cool*, also on 20 September 1976 in the third episode of the record kitchen. After these performances 100,000 copies of the title were sold per week.

Daddy Cool was number one in Germany for twelve weeks and number six in Great Britain. With a total of 800,000 copies sold in 1976, it was the commercially most successful single in Germany; more than one million copies were sold worldwide. On June 28, 1976, the first LP *Take The Heat Off Me* was released, which sold 200,000 copies in Germany alone. When Boney M. appeared on the TV New Year's Eve show *Jetzt geht die Party* on 31 December 1976, the group had already been awarded their first gold record for *Daddy Cool* on 11 December 1976. "The single *Sunny* was released on 22 November 1976 and reached the top position in Germany on 24 January 1977, which it held for 2 weeks. The single *Ma Baker* was released on 2 May 1977 at the same time



as the The troop's greatest success came on 3 April 1978 with *Rivers of Babylon*. After four weeks more than one million units had been sold in Germany alone, more than 500,000 units in France and 1.985 million in Great Britain. Over 4.035 million units were sold worldwide. The title was their biggest hit and was number one on the German hit list for four months. It was followed by *Rasputin* on 28 August 1978, followed by the Christmas song *Mary's Boy Child* on 27 November 1978. More than 220,000 copies were sold in Great Britain in one day, after three weeks the million mark was exceeded there, due to the special status as a Christmas number one hit the sales figure amounted to a total of 1.79 million copies. In Germany, the million mark was also reached after three weeks, with 17 extrusion plants in four countries trying to meet demand. It was the Group's second largest success. The LP *Nightflight to Venus*, which appeared on 28 July 1978, also developed into a sales success, as one million units had been sold by January 1979. With the album, which was the only LP of Boney M. with a listing in the US charts, the gradual turning away from the traditional disco sound to catchy pop succeeded.

On May 5, 1984, Boney M. delivered the album *Ten Thousand Lightyears*, a thematic return to space and a conceptual link to the success of the album *Nightflight to Venus*. Besides the title song *Future World*, *Somewhere in the World* and *Where Did You Go*, the remakes of *Jimmy* (the original comes from her own album *Boonoonoonoos*) and *Tommy Roes Dizzy* are especially noteworthy. In the same year Boney M. reappeared in the top 20 of the charts: with adaptations of the Italian disco hits *Kalimba de Luna* September 1984 (sold 1 million copies worldwide) and the *Happy Song*. Bobby Farrell had also returned for the latter hit, which was released in November 1984. The last album *Eye Dance*, released in October 1985, was even released as a quintet, but without any trace of its early success. At that time Farian lost his interest in the group; after almost ten years Boney M. finally fell apart in 1986. (Source: Wikipedia)

Reggae-Beat, T=75

The musical score is presented in a 4/4 time signature with a tempo of T=75. It is divided into two main sections: Main 1 and Main 2. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- E-Piano:** Main 1 is mostly silent, while Main 2 features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes.
- Mute-Git.:** Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes throughout both sections, using a 'Mute-Guitar' sound.
- Bass:** Provides a steady bass line with eighth notes, characteristic of reggae.
- Drums:** Features a complex pattern including small-crash, ride-cymb., Bongos, BD (Bass Drum), and Rimshot.

Programming instruction

Reggae is one of the most important styles of popular music, originally from Jamaica. It originated there at the end of the 1960s and spread, starting in Great Britain, soon internationally, at the latest from 1968 gradually also worldwide. Jamaican reggae music has been an intangible cultural heritage since 2018. The typical basic rhythm of reggae was created when US R&B pieces were covered in Ska's first own productions, with a strong emphasis on the second and fourth bars. In the transition from ska to rocksteady and then to reggae, this minimalist basic rhythm was slowed down. Since the group BONEY M: comes from the Jamaicanisechn area, it was only natural that they would incorporate reggae into their arrangements - and even not stop at Christmas carols! The basic rhythm is hidden in Main1, which is only complemented by the piano phrase in Main2. But this time the guitar is not only fixed to the otherwise typical eighths look-up, but with the special sound "Mute-Guitar" (stopped guitars) it delivers a special part of this reggae. The eighth change from "small-crash" to "ride-cymbal" is a typical Wersi-Pegasus-issue, because the HH-sounds are a bit underexposed. The bass and piano phrases, on the other hand, are very typical reggae. The very slow tempo of 75 contributes decisively to the real reggae sound.