

SINGLE BY
Ocean Colour Scene

ALBUM
Moseley Shoals

B-SIDE
So Sad
Charlie Brown Says

RELEASED
5 February 1996

RECORDED
1995
Moseley Shoals Studio
Birmingham, England

LABEL
MCA

WRITERS
Steve Cradock
Simon Fowler
Oscar Harrison
Damon Minchella

PRODUCER
Brendan Lynch

TECHNICAL FOCUS

THE RIVERBOAT SONG OCEAN COLOUR SCENE

WORDS AND MUSIC: STEVE CRADOCK, SIMON FOWLER
OSCAR HARRISON, DAMON MINCHELLA

Formed in Moseley, Birmingham in 1989, English rock band Ocean Colour Scene attained success at the height of the '90s Britpop era. They comprised Simon Fowler (vocals, acoustic guitar), Steve Cradock (guitar, piano), Damon Minchella (bass) and Oscar Harrison (drums).

Featuring Paul Weller on organ, 'The Riverboat Song', the lead single from Ocean Colour Scene's second album, 1996's *Moseley Shoals*, was the band's debut UK top-20 hit. It was championed by BBC Radio 1 DJ Chris Evans, who played it frequently on his breakfast show as well as using the opening instrumental section as the theme for his TV programme *TFI Friday*. It was released the same week that *TFI Friday* debuted, and the band performed the song live as the show's first musical guests. *Moseley Shoals* was released two months later and rose to No. 2 on four separate occasions and for a total of seven weeks between April and September 1996, kept off the top for six of those weeks by Alanis Morissette's *Jagged Little Pill*.

TECHNICAL FOCUS

Two technical focus elements are featured in this song:

- Counting
- Unison bends

This song features an unusual time signature, requiring confident **counting**. At times it can feel like the six crotchets in each bar are divided into two groups of three (for example at the opening) while at other times there is a feeling of three groups of two (for example at the verse – take extra care with the rhythms in bars 26, 28, 30 and 32). Play the **unison bends** at the chorus strongly with both notes clearly audible.

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Intro

Rock, slightly swung ♩ = 215 (2 bars count-in)

Bm

(4)

f with moderate distortion/crunch (bass & drums in)

(4)

9

(4)

(4)

13

Em

Bm

17

F#m

Bm

full

1/4

full

Verse

21 Bm

(4)

mf

(4)

25

Em

Bm

let ring-----

29

Em

Bm

let ring-----

33

F#5

G5

A5

N.C.

1.
Bm

2

2

2.

Chorus

36b

Bm D E A

f

full

7 9 10 12 7 10 9

40

Bm D E A

8va

full

7 9 10 12 15 15 12 15 12 15

44

Bm D E A

8va

full

12 14 10 13 12 15 15 12 15 12 15 14 12 12

48

Bm Bm/A E/G# N.C. Bm

7 7 7 7 7 7 5 5 5 5 5 5 4 4 4 4 4 4 0 2 0 2 0 2

Solo

54 Bm

ff w/ wah (optional)

full

1/2

full

full

58 Em Bm F#m Bm

cont. solo ad lib.

Verse

66 Bm

mf

(4)

Em

let ring-----

72 Bm F#m

full

76 Bm