

Take Me Home, Country Roads

"**Take Me Home, Country Roads**", (also called "**Take Me Home**" or "**Country Roads**") is a song written by Bill Danoff, Taffy Nivert, and John Denver about the state of West Virginia. It was released as a single performed by Denver on April 12, 1971. It got to number 2 on *Billboard's* US Hot 100 singles for the week ending August 28, 1971. The song was a success on its first release. It was certified Gold by the RIAA on August 18, 1971, and Platinum on April 10, 2017.^[2] The song became one of John Denver's most popular songs. It still sells, with over 1.5 million digital copies sold in the United States.^[3] It is considered to be Denver's signature song.^[4]

The song has a status as an iconic symbol of West Virginia, which it describes as "almost Heaven". In March 2014, it became one of the four official state anthems of West Virginia.

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Reception in West Virginia

"Take Me Home, Country Roads" received a positive response from West Virginia people. The song is the theme song of West Virginia University. It has been performed during every home football pregame show since 1972.

This song was played at the funeral memorial for West Virginia Senator Robert Byrd at the state capitol in Charleston on July 2, 2010.^[5]

The popularity of the song has gotten bills in the West Virginia Legislature to make "Take Me Home, Country Roads" an official state song. On March 7, 2014, the West Virginia Legislature approved a bill to make "Take Me Home, Country Roads" an official state song of West Virginia. They did this

"Take Me Home, Country Roads"



Single by John Denver

from the album *Poems, Prayers & Promises*

Released	April 12, 1971
Format	7-inch single
Recorded	January 1971, New York City
Genre	Country ^[1]
Length	3:17
Label	RCA
Songwriter(s)	Bill Danoff • Taffy Nivert • John Denver
Producer(s)	Milton Okun • Susan Ruskin

John Denver singles chronology

"Friends With You" (1971)	" Take Me Home, Country Roads " (1971)	"Everyday" (1972)
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Audio

"Take Me Home, Country Roads" (audio) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vrEljMfXYo>) at YouTube

along three other songs: "West Virginia Hills", "This is My West Virginia", and "West Virginia, My Home Sweet Home".^[6] Governor Earl Ray Tomblin signed the resolution into law on March 8, 2014.^[7]

Personnel

- John Denver – vocals, 6 & 12-string acoustic guitar
- Bill Danoff - backing vocals
- Taffy Nivert - backing vocals
- Eric Weissberg – banjo, steel guitar
- Mike Taylor – acoustic guitar
- Richard Kniss – double bass
- Gary Chester – drums, percussion

Charts

Chart (1971)	Peak position
Canada Top Singles (<i>RPM</i>) ^[8]	3
Canada Adult Contemporary (<i>RPM</i>) ^[9]	5
Canada Country Tracks (<i>RPM</i>) ^[10]	17
US <i>Billboard</i> Hot 100 ^[11]	2
US Adult Contemporary (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[12]	3
US Hot Country Singles (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[13]	50

Certifications

Region	Certification	Certified units/sales
Italy (FIMI) ^[14]	Gold	25,000 [‡]
United Kingdom (BPI) ^[15]	Gold	500,000 [‡]
United States (RIAA) ^[2]	Platinum	1,535,000 ^[3]
‡sales+streaming figures based on certification alone		

Other versions

Fallout 76 version

A cover version of the song, a collaboration between Copilot Music and Sound and the vocal group Spank (<https://en-gb.facebook.com/Spankdoowop/>), exists. It was commissioned for and shown in both the teaser and full E3 2018 trailers for the 2018 video game, *Fallout 76*. The game's story is

set in West Virginia.^[16] Released as an iTunes-only single on July 4, 2018, the song reached #1 on the iTunes singles chart.^[17] It debuted at #41 on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart that week and at #21 on *Billboard's* Country Digital Songs the following week.^[17] The official YouTube upload of the original John Denver recording, first uploaded in 2013, would later edit its description to mention the use of the song in the game.^[18]

Charts

Chart (2018)	Peak position
US Country Digital Songs (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[17]	21
US Hot Country Songs (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[17]	41

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This page was last changed on 29 May 2021, at 08:26.

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