

**EXHIBIT B**

**“Folsom Prison Blues” by Johnny Cash**



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# Folsom Prison Blues

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"**Folsom Prison Blues**" is an American country music song written by Johnny Cash in the early 1950s and originally recorded with his trio in 1955 for the Sun Records

<b>"Folsom Prison Blues"</b>	<b>"Folsom Prison Blues"</b>
<b>Song by Johnny Cash</b>	<b>Song by Johnny Cash</b>
<b>Album</b>	<i>With His Hot and Blue Guitar</i>
<b>Released</b>	1957
<b>Recorded</b>	1956
<b>Genre</b>	Country
<b>Length</b>	2:53
<b>Label</b>	Sun Records
<b>Writer</b>	Johnny Cash
<b>Producer</b>	Sam Phillips
<b><i>With His Hot and Blue Guitar</i> track listing</b>	
"Wreck of the Old '97"	" <b>Folsom Prison Blues</b> "
(10)	(11)
"Doin' My Time"	(12)
<b>from the album <i>At Folsom Prison</i></b>	

<b>"Folsom Prison Blues"</b>	
	
<b>Single by Johnny Cash</b>	
<b>B-side</b>	"So Doggone Lonesome"
<b>Released</b>	15th December 1955
<b>Format</b>	7" single
<b>Recorded</b>	July 30th 1955
<b>Genre</b>	Country
<b>Length</b>	2:50
<b>Label</b>	Sun Records

label. The song combines elements from two popular folk

<b>Length</b>	2:41
<b>Label</b>	Columbia Records
	"Folsom Prison Blues" (1)
	"Busted" (2)

**Writer(s)** Johnny Cash

**Producer** Sam Phillips

#### Johnny Cash singles chronology

"Hey, Porter" (1955)	"Folsom Prison Blues" (1955)	"I Walk The Line" (1956)
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genres, the train song and the [prison](#) song, both of which Cash would continue to use for the rest of his career. It has become one of Cash's signature songs.

In the lyrics, the jailed [protagonist](#) listens to the whistle of a train outside his cell and recounts his crimes ("I shot a man in [Reno](#)/just to watch him die"), imagines the free people inside the train ("They're probably drinking coffee and smoking big cigars") and dreams of what he would do if he were free. "I know I had it coming/I know I can't be free," sings the imprisoned man. "But those people keep a'moving/and that's what tortures me."

The song does not clarify why the protagonist is serving time in California despite having committed murder in Nevada (unless he is serving time in Folsom for another offence, and is recalling the Reno murder as he reflects on a life of crime, and his unwillingness to follow his mother's advice not to "play with guns").

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## History

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Cash was inspired to write this song after seeing the movie *Inside the Walls of Folsom Prison* (1951) while serving in [West Germany](#) in the [United States Air Force](#). Cash recounted how he came up with the "Reno" line: "I sat with my pen in my hand, trying to think up the worst reason a person could have for killing another person, and that's what came to mind."<sup>[1]</sup>

The song borrows heavily, both lyrically and melodically, from a [Gordon Jenkins](#) composition on his 1953 *Seven Dreams* [concept album](#) (the Jenkins song is often referred to as Crescent City Blues<sup>[2]</sup>. Jenkins later reportedly filed an infringement lawsuit and received a [settlement](#) after Cash's 1968 live recording achieved widespread success.

Cash included the song in his repertoire for decades. The definitive live performance is considered to be the opening song of a concert recorded at [Folsom Prison](#) itself on [January 13, 1968](#). This version was eventually released on the *At Folsom Prison* album the same year. That opening song is more up-tempo than the Sun studio recording, as befits a concert-opening number. However, the recording's most notable feature — the whoops from the audience at the "Reno" line — was actually added in post-production, according to Michael Streissguth. A special on the *Walk the Line DVD* indicates that the prisoners were careful not to cheer at any of Cash's comments about the prison itself, fearing reprisal from guards.

### Music sample:



"Folsom Prison Blues" excerpt



From the album *At Folsom Prison*. The most popular live version of the song.

*Problems listening to the file? See [media help](#).*

## Legacy

[\[edit\]](#)

### Cover versions

[\[edit\]](#)

- [Brooks & Dunn](#), along with Cash himself, covered the song on the 1994 album *Red Hot + Country*, released by the [Red Hot Organization](#). This cover is notable in that, unlike other Brooks & Dunn songs, both members of the duo ([Kix Brooks](#) and [Ronnie Dunn](#)) share lead vocals.

- The [The International Submarine Band](#) recorded the song on their only EP *Safe at Home* in 1968.
- The song was covered by [Screaming Jets](#) on their 1992 EP *Living in England*.
- The band [Reverend Horton Heat](#) covered the song on their 1999 greatest hits album, *Holy Roller*.
- [Keb Mo](#) does a cover version of the song on a Johnny Cash tribute album. He changes the famous Reno line to "They say I shot a man down in Reno, but that was just a lie." In a later verse, instead of "I know I had it comin', I know I can't be free," he changes the lines to "I didn't hurt nobody, I should be roamin' free." He has stated that the original line "turned his stomach."
- [Kentucky](#) based [cowpunk](#) band [Nine Pound Hammer](#) covered this song on their second album, *Smokin' Taters!*.
- [Canadian](#) country music singer [George Canyon](#) covered the song on his 2007 album *Classics*.
- [Everlast](#) covered the song on his album "Love, War and the Ghost of Whitey Ford".
- [Black Stone Cherry](#) often play this song live, and it featured on their live album "Live At The Astoria".
- [Volbeat](#) uses the music as a tribute to Johnny Cash in the song "Sad Man's Tonque".

## Succession

[[edit](#)]

<p>Preceded by</p> <p><b>"D-I-V-O-R-C-E"</b></p> <p>by <b>Tammy Wynette</b></p>	<p><b>Billboard Hot Country Singles</b></p> <p><b>number one single</b></p> <p>by <b>Johnny Cash</b></p> <p>July 20-August 10, 1968</p>	<p>Succeeded by</p> <p><b>"Heaven Says Hello"</b></p> <p>by <b>Sonny James</b></p>
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Preceded by <b>"All the Time"</b> by <b>Jack Greene</b>	<b>Billboard Hot Country Singles</b> number-one single of the year 1968	Succeeded by <b>"My Life (Throw it Away If I Want To)"</b> by <b>Bill Anderson</b>
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## References

[[edit](#)]

- Streissguth, Michael. *Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison: The Making of a Masterpiece*, Da Capo Press (2004). ISBN 0-306-81338-6.

## Footnotes

[[edit](#)]

- ↑ [Anecdotage.Com - Thousands of true funny stories about famous people. Anecdotes from Gates to Yeats](#)
- ↑ [http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crescent\\_City\\_Blues](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crescent_City_Blues)

## External links

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[lyrics to Folsom Prison Blues](#)

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**Johnny Cash**

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*With His Hot and Blue Guitar* • *Sings the Songs That Made Him Famous* • *The Fabulous Johnny Cash* • *Greatest!* • *Hymns by Johnny Cash* • *Songs of Our Soil* • *Sings Hank Williams* • *Ride This Train* • *Now, There Was a Song!* • *Now Here's Johnny Cash* • *The Lure of the Grand Canyon* • *Hymns from the Heart* • *The Sound of Johnny Cash* • *All Aboard the Blue Train* • *Blood, Sweat and Tears* • *Ring of Fire: The Best of Johnny Cash* • *The Christmas Spirit* • *I Walk the Line* • *Bitter Tears: Ballads of the American Indian* • *Orange Blossom Special* • *Sings the Ballads of the True West* • *Everybody Loves a Nut* • *Happiness is You* • *Carryin' On with Johnny Cash and June Carter* • *From Sea to Shining Sea* • *Old Golden Throat* • *The Holy Land* • *More of Old Golden Throat* • *Hello, I'm Johnny Cash* • *Man in Black* • *A Thing Called Love* • *America: A 200-Year Salute in Story and Song* • *The Johnny Cash Family Christmas* • *Any Old Wind That Blows* • *Johnny Cash and His Woman* • *Ragged Old Flag* • *Junkie and the Juicehead Minus Me* • *The Johnny Cash Children's Album* • *Sings Precious Memories* • *John R. Cash* • *Look at Them Beans* • *One Piece at a Time* • *The Last Gunfighter Ballad* • *The Rambler* • *I Would Like to See You Again* • *Gone Girl* • *Silver* • *A Believer Sings the Truth* • *Rockabilly Blues* • *Classic Christmas* • *The Baron* • *The Adventures of Johnny Cash* • *Johnny 99* • *Highwayman* • *Rainbow* • *Believe in Him* • *Heroes* • *Class of '55* • *Johnny Cash is Coming to Town* • *Classic Cash: Hall of Fame Series* • *Water from the Wells of Home* • *Boom Chicka Boom* • *Highwayman 2* • *The Mystery of Life* • *American Recordings* • *The Road Goes on Forever* • *Unchained* • *American III: Solitary Man* • *American IV: The Man Comes Around* • *American V: A Hundred Highways*

**Studio albums**

**Live albums**

**Soundtrack albums**

*At Folsom Prison* • *At San Quentin* • *The Johnny Cash Show* • *På Österåker* • *Strawberry Cake* • *The Survivors Live* • *VH1 Storytellers* • *At Madison Square Garden A Concert Behind Prison Walls*

*I Walk the Line* • *Little Fauss and Big Halsy* • *The Gospel Road* • *Return to the Promised Land*

<b>Compilation albums</b>	<p><i>Greatest Hits, Vol. 1</i> • <i>Heart of Cash</i> • <i>The World of Johnny Cash</i> • <i>Greatest Hits, Vol. 2</i> •</p> <p><i>Sunday Morning Coming Down</i> • <i>International Superstar</i> • <i>Five Feet High and Rising</i> • <i>Greatest Hits, Vol. 3</i> •</p> <p><i>The Unissued Johnny Cash</i> • <i>Johnny &amp; June</i> • <i>Tall Man</i> • <i>Encore</i> • <i>Biggest Hits</i> • <i>Wanted Man</i> • <i>16 Biggest Hits</i> •</p> <p><i>Love, God and Murder</i> • <i>The Essential Johnny Cash</i> • <i>Unearthed</i> • <i>The Legend</i> • <i>The Legend of Johnny Cash</i> •</p> <p><i>Personal File</i> • <i>The Legend of Johnny Cash Vol. II</i></p>
<b>Songs</b>	<p>"25 Minutes to Go" • "A Boy Named Sue" • "Cat's in the Cradle" • "Cocaine Blues" • "Cry Cry Cry" •</p> <p>"Dark as a Dungeon" • "Engine 143" • "<b>Folsom Prison Blues</b>" • "Get Rhythm" • "Goodnight, Irene" •</p> <p>"Green Green Grass of Home" • "Greystone Chapel" • "Hey Porter" • "Home of the Blues" • "Hurt" •</p> <p>"I Walk the Line" • "In My Life" • "It Ain't Me Babe" • "Jackson" • "The Man Comes Around" • "One Piece at a Time" •</p> <p>"The One on the Right is on the Left" • "Remember the Alamo" • "(Ghost) Riders in the Sky" • "Ring of Fire" •</p> <p>"What'd I Say"</p>
<b>Family</b>	<p>June Carter Cash • John Carter Cash • Rosanne Cash • Carlene Carter • Vivian Liberto • Tommy Cash •</p> <p>Carter Family</p>
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