



MARVIN GAYE

"I Heard It Through the Grapevine" was his first Number One hit, and was the most successful single released by Motown in the 1960s. The Andantes did the background vocals and Motown's studio band, The Funk Brothers, played a voodoo-like instrumental track. It took Marvin Gaye two months to complete his recording of the song. His lead vocal was arranged just above his actual register, a trick used with David Ruffin on Temptations songs such as "Ain't Too Proud to Beg" in order to elicit a rawer vocal from the singer as he strained to hit the high notes. The trick worked, and Gaye's pained lead on "Grapevine", contrasted with the softer vocals of the Andantes. It stayed at the top of the Billboard Charts for seven weeks, from December 7, 1968 to January 18, 1969. Marvin Gaye's "Grapevine" was entered into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1998. It was placed at #80 in Rolling Stone's "500 Greatest Songs of All Time."

Ukulele Club of Santa Cruz
R & B Night
February 2006

I HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

NORMAN WHITFIELD AND BARRETT STRONG 1967

Dm // Dsus4 // Dm // / / / / - repeat 5 times

Oo-oooh I bet you're wonderin' how I knew
 'Bout your plans to make me blue
 With some other guy you knew before
 Between the two of us, guys you know I love you more

It took me by surprise I must say
 When I found out yesterday
 Don't you know that I heard it through the grape - vine
 Not much longer would you be mine
 Oh, I heard it through the grape - vine

Oh, I'm just about to lose my mind... honey, honey yeah
 I heard it through the grapevine not much longer would you be mine baby
 I know a man ain't supposed to cry
 But these tears I can't hold inside
 Losing you would end my life you see
 Cause you mean that much to me

You could have told me yourself
 That you loved someone else
 Instead I heard it through the grape - vine
 Not much longer would you be mine
 Oh, I heard it through the grape - vine
 And I'm just about to lose my mind... honey, honey yeah
 I heard it through the grapevine not much longer would you be mine baby
 People say believe half of what you see
 Son, and none of what you hear
 But I can't help but be confused
 If it's true, please tell me dear
 Do you plan to let me go
 For the other guy you loved before?
 Don't you know I heard it through the grape - vine
 Not much longer would you be mine
 Baby, I heard it through the grape - vine
 Oooh I'm just about to lose my mind... honey, honey yeah
 I heard it through the grapevine not much longer would you be mine baby
honey honey I know, you plan to let me go...
 Dm // Dsus4 // Dm // / / / /repeat and fade

Dm
 Dsus4
 A
 G
 Bm
 Or use an easier chord Bm7