

96 Why Do Fools Fall in Love? 1956



Frankie Lyman and The Teenagers

At age 13 Frankie Lyman was a backup singer for The Premiers. The group was rehearsing in the hallway of an apartment building when one of the residents gave them a collection of love letters written in verse form by his girlfriend. They read them all, chose "Why Do Birds Sing So Gay," and put it to music. Richard Barrett, the lead singer of another New York City group (The Valentines) brought The Premiers to the attention of George Goldner, owner of Rama and Gee Records.

At the audition, Lyman filled in at lead for Herman Santiago, who was sick at the time. Goldner liked the song but not all of its lyrics, and the group was signed to Gee Records. The re-worked song became "Why Do Fools Fall in Love." The Premiers became the Teenagers who they went into the studio to record the song with Jimmy Wright and his band (Wright suggested the new name).

The single was released in January 1956 to avoid the Christmas rush. The group was not notified that it was released -- they found out when a group member heard a classmate singing it at school.

The Teenagers hit #6 with "Why Do Fools Fall in Love."

Frankie Lyman and The Teenagers led the way for young black singing groups like The Jackson 5. As a huge talent thrust into the spotlight at a very young age, Lyman's was a lot like Michael Jackson.

Frankie Lyman died of a heroin overdose at age 26.

Intro

G Em7 Am7 D7 G Em7 Am7 D7

Oo - wah, Oo - wah, Oo - wah, Oo - wah,

G

Why do fools fall in love?

G Em7 Am7 D7 G Em7

Why do birds sing so gay

Am7 D7 G Em7

and lovers await the break of day?

Am7 D7 G Em7 Am7 D7

Why do they fall in love?

G Em7 Am7 D7 G Em7

Why does the rain, fall from up above?

Am7 D7 G Em7

Why do fools fall in love?

Am7 D7 G

Why do they fall in love?

C7 Cm6 G G7

Love is a losing game, love can be a shame,

C7 Cm6 A7 D7

I know of a fool you see, for that fool is me

G Em7 Am7 D7 G Em7 Am7

Tell me why... ah ha hi

D7 G Em7 Am7 D7 G Em7 Am7 D7

Tell me why, Why do fools fall in love?

... sing through entire song again and then end with...

G D7 G Em7 Am7 D7 G

Why do fools fall in love

