

Mustang Sally

(Wilson Pickett)

[Verse 1]

Mustang Sally, guess you better slow your Mustang down (what I said now)
Mustang Sally, now baby, guess you better slow your Mustang down (oh yeah)
You been running all over the town now
Oh! I guess I'll have to put your flat feet on the ground
(what I said now)

[Hook]

All you want to do is ride around Sally
Ride, Sally, ride
All you want to do is ride around Sally
Ride, Sally, ride
All you want to do is ride around Sally
Ride, Sally, ride
One of these early mornings oh
You gonna be wiping your weeping eyes

[Verse 2]

I bought you a brand new Mustang
About nineteen sixty five
Now you come around signifying a woman
You don't wanna let me ride
Mustang Sally now baby
Guess you better slow that Mustang down
You been running all over the town
Oh! I'll have to put your flat feet on the ground
(what I said now)

"Mustang Sally" is a rhythm and blues (R&B) song written and first recorded by Mack Rice in 1965. It was released on the Blue Rock label (4014) in May 1965 with "Sir Mack Rice" as the artist. The song uses an AAB layout with a 24-bar structure.

It gained greater popularity when Wilson Pickett covered it the following year on a single, a version that was also released on the 1966 album, *The Wicked Pickett*. Also in 1966, John Lee Hooker recorded an entirely different song with a similar title — "Mustang Sally & GTO".

According to music historian Tom Shannon the song started as a joke when singer Della Reese wanted a new Ford Mustang. Rice called the early version "Mustang Mama" but changed the title after Aretha Franklin suggested "Mustang Sally".

In the liner notes for *The Rascals Anthology*, Felix Cavaliere states that The Young Rascals recorded "Mustang Sally" and "Land of a Thousand Dances" before Pickett and that Atlantic Records "copped those two songs from them and gave them to Pickett" to record. When Cavaliere does his flashback concerts, he also recounts how Rice thanked him for having been the B-side of the Young Rascals' hit, "Good Lovin'", explaining that the royalties were paid by records sold — thus, the B-side writer was paid for an equal number of sales as the A-side.

Rice's version made it to #15 on the U.S. R&B charts in 1965. Pickett's version climbed to #6 on the R&B charts and #23 on the Pop charts in 1966, #4 in Canada on the (RPM) charts, and #28 in the UK Singles Chart on its original release and #62, when it was released again in 1987.

In 2004, *Rolling Stone* ranked Wilson Pickett's recording of the song at #434 on a list of *Rolling Stone's 500 Greatest Songs of All Time*. The song dropped seven spots to #441, when the magazine published its 2010 update of the list.

The chorus of the song includes the lyrics "ride, Sally, ride" — a phrase that became fodder for newspaper headlines in 1983, when astronaut Sally Ride became the first American woman in space. The Lou Reed song "Ride Sally Ride", which quotes these lyrics throughout, is the first track on his 1974 album *Sally Can't Dance*. The same lyric is found in "Dance to the Music" by Sly and the Family Stone in 1968 and in the children's song "Sally the Camel".

The song featured prominently in the 1991 film *The Commitments* and appears on the film's soundtrack album, sung by Andrew Strong. It was released as a single from the album and reached #63 in the UK Singles Chart, #43 on the Australian charts and #17 on the New Zealand charts. Also in 1991 Chicago blues legend Buddy Guy teamed with English guitarist Jeff Beck for a version of the song on Guy's album "Damn Right, I've Got the Blues".