

## Piece of My Heart

(Janis Joplin)

Oh, come on, come on, come on,  
come on  
Didn't I make you feel like you were  
the only man? Yeah  
An' didn't I give you nearly  
everything that a woman possibly  
can?  
Honey, you know I did  
And, and each time I tell myself that  
I, well I think I've had enough  
But I'm gonna, gonna show you baby,  
that a woman can be tough  
I want you to come on, come on,  
come on, come on and take it  
Take another little piece of my heart  
now, baby  
Oh, oh, break it  
Break another little bit of my heart  
now, darling, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah  
Oh, oh, have a  
Have another little piece of my heart  
now, baby  
Well you know you got it, if it makes  
you feel good  
Oh, yes indeed  
You're out on the streets looking  
good  
And baby deep down in your heart I  
guess you know that it ain't right  
Never, never, never, never, never,  
never hear me when I cry at night  
Babe and I cry all the time  
But each time I tell myself that I, well  
I can't stand the pain  
But when you hold me in your arms,

I'll sing it once again  
I'll say come on, come on, come on,  
come on and take it  
Take another little piece of my heart  
now, baby  
Oh, oh, break it  
Break another little bit of my heart  
now, darling, yeah  
Oh, oh, have a  
Have another little piece of my heart  
now, baby  
Well you know you got it, child, if it  
makes you feel good  
I need you to come on, come on,  
come on, come on and take it  
Take another little piece of my heart  
now, baby  
Oh, oh, break it  
Break another little bit of my heart,  
now darling, yeah, c'mon now  
Oh, oh, have a  
Have another little piece of my heart  
now, baby  
You know you got it  
Take it, take another little piece of  
my heart now, baby  
Oh, oh, break it  
Break another little bit of my heart,  
now darling, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah  
Oh, oh, have a  
Have another little piece of my heart  
now, baby, hey  
You know you got it, child, if it  
makes you feel good

"Piece of My Heart" is a romantic funk/soul love song written by Jerry Ragovoy and Bert Berns, originally recorded by Erma Franklin in 1967.

The song came to greater mainstream attention when Big Brother and the Holding Company (featuring Janis Joplin on lead vocals) covered the song in 1968 and had a much bigger hit with it. The song has since been remade by several singers, including Dusty Springfield on her 1968 album *Dusty...* Definitely, Bryan Ferry on his solo debut album *These Foolish Things* in 1973, Faith Hill in 1994 and Melissa Etheridge in 2005.

In 2004, the Big Brother and the Holding Company version was ranked number 353 on Rolling Stone's list of the 500 Greatest Songs of All Time. The song is also included among The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's 500 Songs that Shaped Rock and Roll.

The original version of "Piece of My Heart" was recorded by Aretha Franklin's older sister Erma in 1967 for producer Bert Berns' Shout label with the same song on both sides of the 7" vinyl single. The song reached number 10 on the R&B charts in the US, and also peaked at number sixty-two on the U.S. Pop Singles chart.

The song became a bigger pop hit when recorded by Big Brother and the Holding Company in 1968 with lead singer Janis Joplin. The song was taken from the group's album *Cheap Thrills*, recorded in 1968 and released on Columbia Records. This 2 minutes 43 seconds rendition made it to number twelve on the U.S. pop chart. The album release was the culmination of a hugely successful year for Joplin with acclaimed performances at the Monterey Pop Festival, Anderson Theater in New York, Wake For Martin Luther King Jr. (with Jimi Hendrix) in New York and on TV's prime-time *The Dick Cavett Show*.

The song's instrumentation was arranged by Sam Andrew, who also performed three distorted, loud guitar solos giving the song a psychedelic touch. The B-side was "Summertime". Another version had the B-side "Turtle Blues".

Franklin said in an interview that when she first heard Joplin's version on the radio, she didn't recognize it because of the vocal arrangement. Noted cultural writer Ellen Willis wrote of the difference: "When Franklin sings it, it is a challenge: no matter what you do to me, I will not let you destroy my ability to be human, to love. Joplin seems rather to be saying, surely if I keep taking this, if I keep setting an example of love and forgiveness, surely he has to understand, change, give me back what I have given". In such a way, Joplin used blues conventions not to transcend pain, but "to scream it out of existence".

Until her death in 1970, "Piece of My Heart" was Joplin's biggest chart success and best-known song. ("Me and Bobby McGee", which Kris Kristofferson wrote, eclipsed "Piece of My Heart" when it appeared after her death in 1970. It went to #1 in 1971). "Piece of My Heart" remains most associated with Joplin and continued to get airplay long after her death. Berns never got to hear Joplin's version, dying of a heart attack on December 30, 1967.