

## Shiny Happy People

(R.E.M.)

[Intro]

Shiny happy people laughing

[Verse 1]

Meet me in the crowd, people, people  
Throw your love around, love me,  
love me  
Take it into town, happy, happy  
Put it in the ground where the  
flowers grow  
Gold and silver shine

[Chorus]

Shiny happy people holding hands  
Shiny happy people holding hands  
Shiny happy people laughing

[Verse 2]

Everyone around, love them, love  
them  
Put it in your hands, take it, take it  
There's no time to cry, happy, happy  
Put it in your heart where tomorrow  
shines  
Gold and silver shine

[Chorus]

Shiny happy people holding hands  
Shiny happy people holding hands  
Shiny happy people laughing

[Bridge]

Whoa, here we go

[Chorus]

Shiny happy people holding hands  
Shiny happy people holding hands  
Shiny happy people laughing  
Shiny happy people holding hands  
Shiny happy people holding hands  
Shiny happy people holding hands  
Shiny happy people laughing  
Shiny happy people holding hands  
Shiny happy people holding hands  
Shiny happy people laughing

[Outro]

Shiny happy people holding hands  
Shiny happy people holding hands  
People, happy people  
People

"Shiny Happy People" is a song by the band R.E.M. It appeared on their 1991 album *Out of Time*, and was released as a single in the same year. The song features guest vocals by Kate Pierson of the B-52's, who also appears in the song's music video.

It peaked at No. 10 on the *Billboard* Hot 100, the fourth and last R.E.M. single to reach the top 10 on the chart. It also peaked at No. 6 on the UK Singles Chart, becoming the first R.E.M. song to reach the top ten in the UK and the only one to reach the top ten in both countries.

The band performed the song with Pierson on *Saturday Night Live* on April 13, 1991. It was first released as a single in May 1991 in the UK, but did not go on sale in the U.S. until four months later.

It was used as the theme song to the unaired pilot for the sitcom *Friends*, known at that time as *Friends Like Us*.

Despite the song's success, band members were ambivalent about being known for a pop song that lacked gravitas. "It's a fruity pop song written for children. It just is what it is", Michael Stipe told the BBC's Andrew Marr in 2016. "If there was one song that was sent into outer space to represent R.E.M. for the rest of time, I would not want it to be 'Shiny Happy People'".

In its 2006 "Song of the Summer" countdown, CBC Radio's *Freestyle* named "Shiny Happy People" 1991's "Song of the Summer". By contrast, in 2006, the song received the No. 1 position on AOL Music's list of the "111 Wussiest Songs of All Time". *Blender* magazine also ranked the song No. 35 on its list of the "50 Worst Songs Ever", and *Q* magazine included it in a list of "Ten Terrible Records by Great Artists" in 2005. When Michael Stipe made an appearance on *Space Ghost Coast to Coast* in 1995, after *Space Ghost* asks him to sing the "Shiny Shiny People" song, he simply states "I hate that song, *Space Ghost*." Due to the band's dislike of the song, it was one of their few Warner-released singles not included on their 2003 greatest hits album *In Time*. It was later included on their 2011 greatest hits album *Part Lies, Part Heart, Part Truth, Part Garbage 1982–2011*.