

Stay

(The Four Seasons)

Stay-ay (ohhhhh) just a little bit longer
Please please please please please tell me that you're gonna
Now you're daddy don't mind, and you're mommy don't mind
If we have another dance dear, just one more, one more time

Oh won't you stay, just a little bit longer
Please let me dance, please say that you will (say you will)
Won't you place your sweet lips, on mi-i-i-i-i-i-ine
Won't you say you love me all of the ti-i-i-i-ime

Woah woah woah woah just a little bit longer
Please please please please please tell me that you're gonna

(Come on come on come on)
Stay-ay come on come on come on stay-ay
(Come on come on come on)
Stay-ay come on come on come on stay-ay

Oh-oooh ooh-oooh-oooh-ohh-ohh-ohh-ohh

"Stay" is a doo-wop song written by Maurice Williams and first recorded in 1960 by Williams with his group the Zodiacs. Commercially successful versions were later also issued by The Hollies, The Four Seasons and Jackson Browne.

The song was written by Williams in 1953 when he was 15 years old. He had been trying to convince his date not to go home at 10 o'clock as she was supposed to. He lost the argument, but as he was to relate years later, "Like a flood, the words just came to me."

In 1960, the song was put on a demo by Williams and his band, the Zodiacs, but it attracted no interest until a ten-year-old heard it and impressed the band members with her positive reaction to the tune. The band's producers took it along with some other demos to New York City and played them for all the major record producers that they could access. Finally, Al Silver of Herald Records became interested, but insisted that the song be re-recorded as the demo's recording levels were too low. They also said that one line, "Let's have another smoke" would have to be removed in order for the song to be played on commercial radio. After the group recorded the tune again, it was released by Herald Records and was picked up by CKLW. It entered the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 on October 9, 1960 and reached the number one spot on November 21, 1960. It was dislodged a week later by Elvis Presley's "Are You Lonesome Tonight?". On the Herald recording, Williams sang lead and Henry Gaston sang the falsetto counter-verse.

The original recording of "Stay" remains the shortest single ever to reach the top of the American record charts, at 1 minute 36 seconds in length. By 1990, it had sold more than 8 million copies. It received a new lease of popularity after being featured on the Dirty Dancing soundtrack.

The Four Seasons version was first released on their June 1963 album *The 4 Seasons Sing Ain't That a Shame and 11 Others*; it was later released as a single in December 1963. Vee Jay originally released it as the B-side of "Peanuts" in December, but when disc jockeys started to "turn the single over" to play "Stay" on the air, the record company superseded the single with a new one with "Stay" as the A-side and "Goodnight My Love" as the new B-side. It peaked at number 16 on the US Billboard Hot 100 in April.