

TWENTY SIX MILES 1957

The Four Preps were students at Hollywood High School when they were signed on to a recording contract with Capitol Records. The band's lead singer, 15 year old Bruce Belland had broken his ankle & took up ukulele to pass the time while recuperating. He learned four chords, which ended up becoming the song's opening music. The chorus was developed some time later when, while body surfing at a California beach, a friend said he could see Santa Catalina 26 miles away.

2 beats/chord. Intro, & keep going over & over: C, Am, F, G7

Twenty-six miles, across the sea; Santa Catalina is a-waitin' for me;
Santa Catalina, the island of Romance, romance, romance, romance.

Water all around it, ev'rywhere, tropical trees and the salty air,
But for me the thing that's a-waitin' there's—

C F C C7
Romance. D'dee d'dee dee. (WHISTLE the dee's)

Bridge

Dm G7 C Am Dm G C C7
It seems so distant, twenty-six miles away, restin' in the water serene.
Dm G7 C Am (H)D7//// G G7
I'd work for anyone, even the Navy, who would float me to my island dream.

26 miles, so near, yet far; I'd swim with just some water wings & my guitar.
I can leave the wings but I'll need the guitar for—Romance, romance, romance,
romance.

Twenty-six miles across the sea, Santa Catalina is a-waitin' for me,
Santa Catalina, the island of

C F C C7
Romance. D'dee d'dee dee. (WHISTLE the dee's)

Bridge

Dm G7 C Am Dm G C C7
A tropical heaven out in the ocean, covered with trees and girls.
Dm G7 C Am (H)D7//// G G7
If I have to swim, I'd do it forever till I'm gazin' on those island pearls;

Forty kilometers in a leaky old boat, any old thing that'll stay afloat.
When **we** arrive we'll **all** promote—romance, romance, romance romance.

Twenty-six miles across the sea, Santa Catalina is a-waitin' for me,
Santa Catalina, the island of romance, romance, romance, romance.

(half the group sing:)

(other half sing:)

Romance, romance, romance romance; 26 miles, across the sea
Romance, romance, romance romance 26 miles, across the sea. . . fade. . .

