

# Y.M.C.A. (song)

"**Y.M.C.A.**" is a song by the American disco group Village People. It was released in 1978 as the only single from their third studio album, *Cruisin'* (1978). The song was written by Jacques Morali (also the record's producer) and singer Victor Willis.<sup>[1]</sup> A medley with "Hot Cop" reached No. 2 on *Billboard's* Dance Music/Club Play Singles chart,<sup>[2]</sup> while the song reached No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 charts in early 1979, placing behind both "Le Freak" by Chic and "Da Ya Think I'm Sexy?" by Rod Stewart.<sup>[3]</sup> Outside the US, "Y.M.C.A." reached No. 1 in the UK around the same time, becoming the group's biggest hit. It is one of fewer than 40 singles to have sold 10 million (or more) physical copies worldwide.

The song remains popular and is played at many sporting events in the US and Europe, with crowds joining in on the dance in which arm movements are used to spell out the four letters of the song's title. "Y.M.C.A." appeared as the Space Shuttle wake-up call on day 11 of mission STS-106.<sup>[4]</sup> In 2009, "Y.M.C.A." set a Guinness World Record when over 44,000 people danced to Village People's live performance of the song at the 2008 Sun Bowl game in El Paso, Texas.<sup>[5]</sup>

"Y.M.C.A." is #7 on VH1's list of "The 100 Greatest Dance Songs of the 20th Century."<sup>[6]</sup> In 2020, "Y.M.C.A." was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame<sup>[7]</sup> and selected by the Library of Congress for preservation in the National Recording Registry for being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant".<sup>[8][9]</sup> In its official press release, the Library noted that "back in its heyday, 'Y.M.C.A.' was a hit around the world, going to No. 1 on the charts in over 15 countries, and its ongoing popularity is evidence that, despite the naysayers, disco has never truly died."<sup>[8]</sup>

## Contents

### History

### Composition and background

Lyrical content

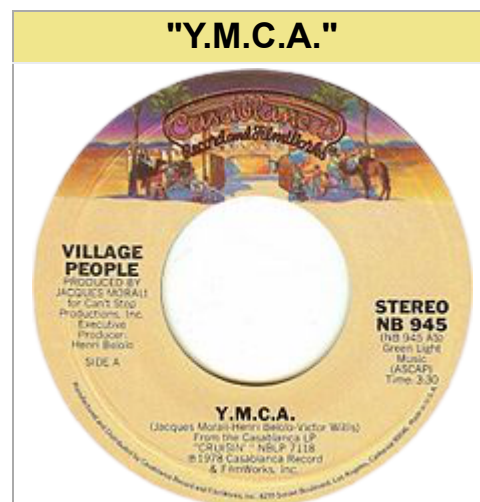
Song structure

### Reception

### Music video

### Origin of dance and hand movement

### Impact and legacy



One of A-side label variants of U.S. 7-inch vinyl single

### Single by Village People

### from the album *Cruisin'*

<b>B-side</b>	"The Women"
<b>Released</b>	October 17, 1978
<b>Recorded</b>	1978
<b>Studio</b>	<u>Sigma Sound Studios</u> ( <u>New York City, New York</u> )
<b>Genre</b>	<u>Disco</u>
<b>Length</b>	4:47 (single version) 6:47 (12" disco version)
<b>Label</b>	<u>Casablanca</u>
<b>Songwriter(s)</b>	<u>Jacques Morali</u> · <u>Victor Willis</u> · <u>Henri Belolo</u> (co-credited on original release)
<b>Producer(s)</b>	<u>Jacques Morali</u>

### Village People singles chronology

" <u>Macho Man</u> " (1978)	" <b>Y.M.C.A.</b> " (1978)	" <u>In the Navy</u> " (1979)
-----------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------------------

**Personnel****Chart performance**Weekly chartsYear-end chartsAll-time charts**Sales and certifications****Hideki Saijo version**Commercial performanceAccoladesCover versionsTrack listingChartsWeekly chartsYear-end charts**Touché feat. Krayzee version**Music videoTrack listingCharts**References****External links**

## History

---

In the US, the YMCA began building single room occupancy (SRO) facilities in the 1880s to house people from rural areas who moved into cities to look for work.<sup>[10]</sup> The typical YMCA SRO housing provides "low-income, temporary housing for a rent of \$110 per week" (in 2005) for stays that are typically three to six months long.<sup>[10]</sup> By 1950, 670 of the 1,688 YMCAs in the US provided SRO spaces, which made 66,959 beds available.<sup>[10]</sup> By the 1970s, the typical YMCA tenants were more likely to be homeless people and youth facing life issues, rather than people migrating from rural areas.<sup>[10]</sup>

Victor Willis, lead singer and lyricist, recalls that while in the studio, producer Jacques Morali asked him, "What exactly is the YMCA?" After Willis explained it to him, he saw the expression on Morali's face and said, "Don't tell me, Jacques, you want to write a song about it?" and they quickly wrote the track for the album *Cruisin'*.<sup>[11]</sup> Upon the song's release, YMCA threatened to sue the band over trademark infringement. The organization ultimately settled with the composers out of court and later expressed pride regarding the song saluting the organization.<sup>[12]</sup>

In 2015, Willis won a legal case against Can't Stop Productions, successfully claiming that he and Morali had written this and other Village People songs together, without any involvement from executive producer Henri Belolo, who was credited on the song's original release. The production company claimed that Belolo had written French lyrics that were then adapted by Willis, but this claim was rejected by the court which ruled that Belolo's name as co-writer should be removed.<sup>[13]</sup>

## Composition and background

---

## Lyrical content

Taken at face value, the song's lyrics extol the virtues of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). However, in the gay culture from which the image and music of the Village People came, the song was implicitly understood as celebrating YMCA's reputation as a popular cruising and hookup spot, particularly for the younger men to whom it was addressed.<sup>[14]</sup> The initial goal of Village People producers Morali and Belolo was to attract disco's gay audience by featuring popular gay fantasy in their music.<sup>[15]</sup> Although co-creator Morali was gay and the group was initially intended to target gay men, the group became more popular and more mainstream over time.<sup>[16]</sup>

Conversely, Willis had said that he wrote the song in Vancouver, British Columbia<sup>[17]</sup> and, through his publicist, that he did not write "Y.M.C.A." as a gay anthem,<sup>[18]</sup> but rather as a reflection of the fun activities that young urban black youth experienced at YMCA, such as basketball and swimming. However, Willis has often acknowledged his fondness for double entendre.<sup>[19][20]</sup>

In an article for *Gothamist*, writer Abbey White states the atmosphere of YMCA was "more complicated than the lyrics portray, with gay culture and working-class workouts coexisting in a single communal space", creating "a mix of white-collar and blue-collar residents, along with retired seniors and veterans", with about half of the residents being gay.<sup>[21]</sup> While the song gives the impression that YMCA SROs in the 1970s had a party atmosphere, Paul Groth states that YMCA SRO units actually had "more supervision of your social life — a kind of management as to how you behaved...[than] in a commercial rooming house, which mostly wanted to make sure the rooms were rented", without monitoring who you brought to your room.<sup>[21]</sup>

## Song structure

The song, played in the key of G♭ major, begins with a brass riff, backed by the constant pulse that typified disco. Many different instruments are used throughout for an overall orchestral feel, another disco convention, but it is brass that stands out.

As with other Village People hits, the lead vocals are handled by Willis and the background vocals are supplied by Willis and professional background singers. The distinctive vocal line features the repeated "Young man!" ecphronesis, followed by Willis singing the verse lines. The background vocals join in throughout the song.

Willis' version of the song is used in the Village People film *Can't Stop the Music*, though by that time Ray Simpson had replaced him as the policeman.

## Reception

---

*Billboard Magazine* stated that "Y.M.C.A." is "another example of [the Village People's] droll humor, playing off its gayness with hard hat themes."<sup>[22]</sup> *Billboard* also called Y.M.C.A (and its B-side, "The Women") one of the best cuts on the *Cruisin'* album.<sup>[23]</sup> Although the song did not reach No. 1 in the United States, it became a No. 1 hit throughout the world and has remained popular at parties, sporting events, weddings and functions ever since.

## Music video

---

The music video for "Y.M.C.A." was filmed in New York City in July 1978. The location shown the most in the music video is at 213 West 23rd Street. Other filming locations in the city included 395 West Street, the West Side Piers and Hudson River Park. The video features the band singing the song and dancing all over the city and ends with the camera zooming in on the Empire State Building.

## Origin of dance and hand movement

*YMCA* is also the name of a group dance with cheerleader Y-M-C-A choreography invented to fit the song. One of the phases involves moving arms to form the letters Y-M-C-A as they are sung in the chorus:

- Y** — arms outstretched and raised upwards
- M** — made by bending the elbows from the 'Y' pose so the fingertips meet in front of the chest<sup>[24]</sup>
- C** — arms extended to the left
- A** — hands held together above head

The dance originated on Dick Clark's *American Bandstand*. The group performed the song during the January 6, 1979 episode. Clark then said to Willis that he would like to show him something, playing the song again with the audience doing YMCA hand gestures.<sup>[25][26]</sup> Willis immediately picked up on the dance and mimicked the hand movements back at the audience as other Village People members stared at him with puzzled looks. Clark then turned to Willis and said, "Victor, think you can work this dance into your routine?" Willis responded, "I think we're gonna have to."<sup>[25]</sup> In a 2008 retrospective article for *Spin*, Randy Jones has opined that the dance may have originated as a misunderstanding: the group's original choreographed dance had the group clapping above their heads during the chorus and he believes that the audience, believing them to be making the letter "Y", began following suit.<sup>[27]</sup>

Following the sixth inning of New York Yankees baseball games at Yankee Stadium, the grounds crew traditionally grooms the infield while leading the crowd in the dance.<sup>[28]</sup>

## Impact and legacy

*VH1* placed "Y.M.C.A." at #7 on their list of "100 Greatest Dance Songs" in 2000,<sup>[29]</sup> while *Paste Magazine* ranked the song #1 on their list of "The 60 Best Dancefloor Classics" in February 2017.<sup>[30]</sup>

In 2012, in a landmark ruling in accordance with the Copyright Act of 1976, Willis terminated his copyrights granted to the publishers Can't Stop Productions and Scorpio Music.<sup>[31]</sup> In March 2015, it was determined that the sole writers of the song were Morali and Willis.<sup>[32]</sup>

In March 2020, the US Library of Congress added the song to its National Recording Registry, which preserves for posterity audio that is "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant".<sup>[33]</sup> In December 2020, "Y.M.C.A." was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame.<sup>[7]</sup>



The YMCA dance demonstrated in a photomontage. In this rendition, the M (second from left) is done in a popular variant.



Members of the grounds crew of Yankee Stadium pause to do the YMCA dance.

President Donald Trump began using the song (as well as another Village People song, "Macho Man") to close out his rallies during his 2020 re-election campaign. Willis initially approved its use but after several incidents involving the Black Lives Matter protests, he demanded Trump stop.<sup>[34]</sup> *Saturday Night Live* parodied the song and the group's reaction with "Cease and desist" on the October 24, 2020, segment of *Weekend Update*.<sup>[35]</sup> As a result, the song was back in the Top 20 on iTunes in November 2020<sup>[36]</sup> and hit the #2 spot on the Billboard Dance Digital Song Sales chart.<sup>[37]</sup> On November 7, following the media's declaration that Joe Biden had become President-elect and defeated Trump in the 2020 US presidential election, Biden supporters celebrated by dancing in the streets and singing the song across the United States.<sup>[38]</sup>

The song blared over loudspeakers as Donald Trump boarded Air Force One for the last time on January 20, 2021, en route to Florida before the inauguration of Joe Biden.<sup>[39]</sup>

## Personnel

- Victor Willis – vocals
- Russell Dabney – drums
- Alfonso Carey – bass guitar
- Jimmy Lee – guitar
- Rodger Lee – rhythm guitar
- Nathaniel Wilkie – Fender Rhodes piano, clavinet
- Bitter Sweet – hand claps

## Chart performance

### Weekly charts

Chart (1993–94) (Y.M.C.A. '93)	Peak position
Australia (ARIA) <sup>[64]</sup>	76
France (SNEP) <sup>[48]</sup>	90
Ireland (IRMA) <sup>[65]</sup>	12
New Zealand (RIANZ) <sup>[66]</sup>	46
UK Singles (Official Charts Company) <sup>[59]</sup>	12
UK Dance Singles ( <i>Music Week</i> ) <sup>[67]</sup>	10
Chart (1999)	Peak position
UK Singles (Official Charts Company) <sup>[59]</sup>	35
UK Dance (Official Charts Company) <sup>[68]</sup>	28

### Year-end charts

Chart (1978–79)	Peak position
Australia (Kent Music Report) <sup>[40][41]</sup>	1
Austria (Ö3 Austria Top 40) <sup>[42]</sup>	1
Belgium (Ultratop 50 Flanders) <sup>[43]</sup>	1
Canadian <i>RPM</i> Adult Contemporary <sup>[44]</sup>	1
Canadian <i>RPM</i> Disco Singles <sup>[45]</sup>	2
Canadian <i>RPM</i> Top 15 12inch <sup>[46]</sup>	1
Canadian <i>RPM</i> Top Singles <sup>[47]</sup>	1
Finland (Suomen virallinen lista)	1
France (SNEP) <sup>[48]</sup>	1
Germany (Official German Charts) <sup>[49]</sup>	1
Ireland (IRMA) <sup>[50]</sup>	1
Italy (FIMI)	1
Netherlands (Dutch Top 40) <sup>[51]</sup>	1
Netherlands (Single Top 100) <sup>[52]</sup>	1
New Zealand (Recorded Music NZ) <sup>[53]</sup>	1
Norway (VG-lista) <sup>[54]</sup>	2
South African Chart <sup>[55]</sup>	3
Spain (AFYVE) <sup>[56]</sup>	4
Sweden (Sverigetopplistan) <sup>[57]</sup>	1
Switzerland (Schweizer Hitparade) <sup>[58]</sup>	1
UK (Official Charts Company) <sup>[59]</sup>	1
US <i>Billboard</i> Hot 100 <sup>[60]</sup>	2
US <i>Billboard</i> Hot Disco Singles <sup>[61]</sup>	2
US <i>Billboard</i> Hot R&B/Soul Singles <sup>[62]</sup>	32
US <i>Cash Box</i> <sup>[63]</sup>	3

Chart (1979)	Rank
Australia <sup>[69]</sup>	15
Canada <sup>[70]</sup>	13
New Zealand <sup>[71]</sup>	11
UK <sup>[72]</sup>	26
US <i>Billboard</i> Hot 100 <sup>[73]</sup>	8
US <i>Cash Box</i> <sup>[74]</sup>	4

## All-time charts

Chart (1958-2018)	Position
US <i>Billboard</i> Hot 100 <sup>[75]</sup>	338

## Sales and certifications

---

Region	Certification	Certified units/sales
Belgium	—	300,000 <sup>[76]</sup>
Canada (Music Canada) <sup>[77]</sup>	2× Platinum	300,000 <sup>^</sup>
France (SNEP) <sup>[79]</sup>	Gold	1,450,000 <sup>[78]</sup>
Germany (BVMI) <sup>[81]</sup>	Gold	500,000 <sup>[80]</sup>
Italy (FIMI) <sup>[82]</sup> <i>sales since 2009</i>	Gold	25,000 <sup>‡</sup>
Japan (RIAJ)		302,000 <sup>[83]</sup>
Netherlands (NVPI) <sup>[85]</sup>	Platinum	250,000 <sup>[84]</sup>
United Kingdom (BPI) <sup>[87]</sup>	Platinum	1,500,000 <sup>[86]</sup>
United States (RIAA) <sup>[88]</sup>	Platinum	2,000,000 <sup>^</sup>
<b>Summaries</b>		
Worldwide	—	12,000,000 <sup>[89]</sup>
<sup>^</sup> Shipments figures based on certification alone. <sup>‡</sup> Sales+streaming figures based on certification alone.		

## Hideki Saijo version

In 1979, Japanese singer Hideki Saijo covered the song for his compilation album *Young Man/Hideki Flying Up* as "**Young Man (Y.M.C.A.)**". In Japan, the cover topped on the Oricon chart for five consecutive weeks and became the seventh best-selling single of 1979 in Japan. For the cover, the lyrics was re-written in Japanese by Saijo's manager, Ryuji Amagai.

### Commercial performance

"Young Man (Y.M.C.A.)" debuted at number two on the Oricon Weekly Singles Chart, and in the following week, it reached number one, where it stayed for five consecutive weeks. The song finally became the seventh best-selling single of 1979 in Japan and Saijo's best-selling single to date, with the sales of 808,000 copies.

Following the death of Saijo on 16 May 2018, the song re-entered the chart, peaking at number fifteen on the Billboard Japan Hot 100.<sup>[90]</sup>

### Accolades

"Young Man (Y.M.C.A.)" won the Grand Prix at the FNS Music Festival '79 and the 10th Japan Music Awards. Despite the hit, the song was disqualified for the 21st Japan Record Awards due to the

### "Young Man (Y.M.C.A.)"



Single by Hideki Saijo

from the album *Young Man/Hideki Flying Up*

<b>B-side</b>	"Hideki Disco Special"
<b>Released</b>	February 21, 1979
<b>Genre</b>	<u>Kayokyoku</u>
<b>Length</b>	4:43
<b>Label</b>	<u>RCA</u> · <u>RVC</u>



competition's guideline that requires the songs to be original work. At the award, Saijo instead won the golden award for his single, "Yuki ga Areba" (1979).

## Cover versions

"Young Man (Y.M.C.A.)" has been covered by multiple other Asian musicians, including Keisuke Kuwata, Aska, George Lam, Yang Kun, and E-girls.

## Track listing

### 7-inch single

- "Young Man (Y.M.C.A.)" - 4:43
- "Hideki Disco Special" (Medley)

## Charts

### Weekly charts

Chart (1979)	Peak position
Japan (Oricon) <sup>[91]</sup>	1

Chart (2018)	Peak position
Japan (Japan Hot 100) <sup>[90]</sup>	15

### Year-end charts

Chart (1979)	Peak position
Japan (Oricon) <sup>[91]</sup>	7

<b>Songwriter(s)</b>	<u>Jacques Morali</u> · <u>Victor Willis</u> · <u>Henri Belolo</u> · <u>Ryuji Amagai</u>	
<b>Producer(s)</b>	<u>Kazuo Ohtani</u>	
<b>Hideki Saijo singles chronology</b>		
"Harukanaru Koibito e" (1978)	<b>"Young Man (Y.M.C.A.)"</b> (1979)	"Hop Step Jump" (1979)

## Touché feat. Krayzee version

In 1998, Touché covered the hit for their album *Kids in America* with Krayzee. In this version Touche take over the vocal parts and only the rap contributes to Krayzee. In Belgium, this cover version was a top ten hit, while the success in the German-speaking countries, however, was rather modest.

## Music video

In the music video Touche and Krayzee perform the song in a city area, accompanied by elaborate effects.<sup>[92]</sup>

## Track listing

<b>"Y.M.C.A."</b>	
<b>Single by <u>Touché feat. Krayzee</u></b>	
from the album <i>Kids In America</i>	
<b>Released</b>	September 14, 1998
<b>Recorded</b>	1998
<b>Genre</b>	<u>Eurodance</u>
<b>Length</b>	3:09 (single version) 3:14 (album version)
<b>Label</b>	<u>BMG</u> , <u>Hansa</u>



**CD maxi**

1. "YMCA" (Rap Version) - 3:09
2. "YMCA" (Vocal Version) - 3:14
3. "Promise To Believe" (Touché) - 3:57
4. "I Want Your Body" (Touché) - 3:19

**Charts**

Chart (1998)	Peak position
German Singles Chart	31
Austrian Singles Chart	31
Swiss Singles Chart	23 <sup>[93]</sup>
Belgium (Flanders) (Ultratop)	10 <sup>[94]</sup>

<b>Songwriter(s)</b>	Jacques Morali, Victor Willis	
<b>Producer(s)</b>	Dieter Bohlen	
<b>Touché feat. Krayzee singles chronology</b>		
"I'll Give You My Heart" (1998)	"Y.M.C.A." (1998)	"This Goodbye Is Not Forever" (1998)

**References**

1. Littlefield, Dana (March 5, 2015). "Village People cop wins 50% of 'YMCA' rights" (<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/sdut-village-people-singer-writer-owns-ymca-song-2015mar05-story.html>). *The San Diego Union-Tribune*. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20181103170525/http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/sdut-village-people-singer-writer-owns-ymca-song-2015mar05-story.html>) from the original on November 3, 2018. Retrieved March 26, 2020.
2. "The Village People Awards" (<http://www.allmusic.com/artist/the-village-people-mn0000808201/awards>). Allmusic. Retrieved October 31, 2012.
3. "Top 100 Songs | Billboard Hot 100 Chart" (<https://www.billboard.com/charts/hot-100>). *Billboard*.
4. "Audio Wakeup Call Index" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20001017173545/http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/gallery/audio/shuttle/sts-106/html/ndexpage.html>). Spaceflight.nasa.gov. Archived from the original (<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/gallery/audio/shuttle/sts-106/html/ndexpage.html>) on October 17, 2000. Retrieved August 19, 2011.
5. Peterson, Jan (February 2, 2012). "Dancing Without the Stars: 'YMCA' and Other Record-Breaking Dance Events – Yahoo TV" (<https://tv.yahoo.com/news/dancing-without-stars-ymca-other-record-breaking-dance-20110202-225100-660.html>). Tv.yahoo.com. Retrieved March 28, 2014.
6. "the VH1's 100 Greatest Dance Songs @" (<http://www.disco-disco.com/other/vh1.shtml>). Disco-disco.com. Retrieved March 28, 2014.
7. "GRAMMY Hall of Fame 2021 Inductions Announced" (<https://www.grammy.com/grammys/news/grammy-hall-fame-2021-inductions-welcomes-recordings-tribe-called-quest-billie-holiday-journey-linda>). December 21, 2020.
8. "National Recording Registry Class Produces Ultimate 'Stay at Home' Playlist" (<https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-20-023/>). *Library of Congress – National Recording Registry*. March 25, 2020. Retrieved March 25, 2020.
9. "The Village People's YMCA is preserved for posterity" (<https://www.bbc.com/news/amp/entertainment-arts-52033153>). *BBC News*. March 25, 2020. Retrieved March 25, 2020.
10. Stern, Seth (October 26, 2005). "New YMCA would drop low-income housing" ([https://www.forestparkreview.com/News/Articles/10-26-2005/New-YMCA-would-drop-low\\_income-housing/](https://www.forestparkreview.com/News/Articles/10-26-2005/New-YMCA-would-drop-low_income-housing/)). *Forestparkreview.com*. Forest Park Review. Retrieved December 22, 2018.

11. Victor Willis Interview, SiriusXM Radio, Studio 54 Channel, Marc and Myra Show, September 24, 2013
12. "How Did the Real YMCA React to the Disco Song About It?" (<http://mentalfloss.com/article/61754/how-did-real-ymca-react-disco-song-about-it>). *Mentalfloss.com*. February 20, 2015. Retrieved August 13, 2017.
13. Chris Cooke, "Victor Willis wins a 50% stake in YMCA", *CMU.com*, 6 March 2015 (<https://completemusicupdate.com/article/victor-willis-wins-a-50-stake-in-ymca/>). Retrieved August 6, 2019
14. Neumann, Caryn E. *glbtq: An Encyclopedia of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Culture YMCA* ([http://www.glbqtarchive.com/ssh/ymca\\_S.pdf](http://www.glbqtarchive.com/ssh/ymca_S.pdf))
15. "The Village People – FREE The Village People information | Encyclopedia.com: Find The Village People research" (<http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-3492500086.html>). *Encyclopedia.com*. Retrieved May 5, 2016.
16. Juzwiak, Rich. "Village Person Says 'Y.M.C.A.' Isn't About Gays, Is Probably Lying" (<http://gawker.com/village-person-says-y-m-c-a-isnt-about-gays-is-pro-1493380284>). *Gawker.com*. Retrieved May 5, 2016.
17. "'Macho Man,' 'Y.M.C.A.' about straight fun: publicist – CTV News" ([https://web.archive.org/web/20090220183557/http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20070802/village\\_people\\_070802?s\\_name=&no\\_ads=](https://web.archive.org/web/20090220183557/http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20070802/village_people_070802?s_name=&no_ads=)). CTV.ca. August 2, 2007. Archived from the original ([http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20070802/village\\_people\\_070802?s\\_name=&no\\_ads=](http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20070802/village_people_070802?s_name=&no_ads=)) on February 20, 2009. Retrieved August 19, 2011.
18. "Village People Cop: Y.M.C.A. Not about Gay Cruising" (<http://www.towleroad.com/2007/08/village-people-.html>). August 3, 2007. Retrieved June 13, 2013.
19. Boles, Benjamin (February 7, 2014). "Gay Village People Co-Founder Says 'YMCA' Not A Gay Song" ([http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2014/07/02/the-village-people-ymca\\_n\\_5543849.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2014/07/02/the-village-people-ymca_n_5543849.html)). *The Huffington Post*. Retrieved December 19, 2016.
20. Varga, George (August 2, 2015). "Victor Willis on life & music, post-Village People" (<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/entertainment/music/sdut-victor-willis-interview-2015aug02-story.html>). *The San Diego Union-Tribune*. Retrieved December 19, 2016.
21. White, Abbey (December 20, 2018). "The Real Story Of The YMCA That Inspired The Village People's Gay Anthem=" ([https://web.archive.org/web/20181220142205/http://gothamist.com/2018/12/20/real\\_ymca\\_village\\_people.php](https://web.archive.org/web/20181220142205/http://gothamist.com/2018/12/20/real_ymca_village_people.php)). *Gothamist.com*. Gothamist. Archived from the original ([http://gothamist.com/2018/12/20/real\\_ymca\\_village\\_people.php](http://gothamist.com/2018/12/20/real_ymca_village_people.php)) on December 20, 2018. Retrieved December 22, 2018.
22. "Top Single Picks" (<https://worldradiohistory.com/Archive-Billboard/70s/1978/Billboard%201978-10-14.pdf>) (PDF). *Billboard*. October 14, 1978. p. 78. Retrieved June 30, 2020.
23. "Top Album Picks" (<https://worldradiohistory.com/Archive-Billboard/70s/1978/Billboard%201978-10-07.pdf>) (PDF). *Billboard*. October 7, 1978. p. 82. Retrieved June 30, 2020.
24. "Official Village People website, July 4, 2004" ([https://web.archive.org/web/20120214163935/http://www.officialvillagepeople.com/VP%20Live%20page/pages/020\\_20.htm](https://web.archive.org/web/20120214163935/http://www.officialvillagepeople.com/VP%20Live%20page/pages/020_20.htm)). Officialvillagepeople.com. Archived from the original ([http://www.officialvillagepeople.com/VP%20Live%20page/pages/020\\_20.htm](http://www.officialvillagepeople.com/VP%20Live%20page/pages/020_20.htm)) on February 14, 2012. Retrieved August 19, 2011.
25. *American Bandstand* 1978
26. Winfrey, Oprah (host) (February 7, 2014). "Rick Springfield, Jill Zarin, Terry Fator and the Village People" ([http://www.oprah.com/own-where-are-they-now/who-inspired-the-ymca-dance-moves-video?utm\\_medium=googlet](http://www.oprah.com/own-where-are-they-now/who-inspired-the-ymca-dance-moves-video?utm_medium=googlet)). *Oprah: Where Are They Now?*. Season 3. Episode 306. OWN. Retrieved November 6, 2020.
27. Pearlman, Jeff (May 27, 2008). "Y.M.C.A (An Oral History)" (<http://www.spin.com/2008/05/ymca-oral-history/>). *Spin.com*. Retrieved July 21, 2015.

28. "NY- Yankee Stadium- 7th Inning Stretch" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20140407085452/http://theweblicist.com/wordpress/2007/08/05/ny-yankee-stadium-7th-inning-stretch/>). *I Photo New York*. Archived from the original (<http://theweblicist.com/wordpress/2007/08/05/ny-yankee-stadium-7th-inning-stretch/>) on April 7, 2014. Retrieved April 5, 2014.
29. "Rock On The Net: VH1: 100 Greatest Dance Songs" (<http://www.rockonthenet.com/archive/2000/vh1dance.htm>). *Rockonthenet.com*.
30. "The 60 Best Dancefloor Classics" (<https://www.pastemagazine.com/articles/2017/02/the-60-best-dance-floor-classics.html?p=6>). *pastemagazine.com*. February 28, 2017. Retrieved August 26, 2017.
31. Gardner, Eriq (May 8, 2012). "Village People Songwriter Victor Willis Wins Case Over Termination of 'Y.M.C.A.' Rights" (<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/thr-esq/village-people-ymca-lawsuit-victor-willis-321576>). *Hollywood Reporter*. Retrieved March 28, 2014.
32. Eriq Gardner (March 5, 2015). "Jury Decides Village People 'Y.M.C.A.' Songwriter Has 100 Percent Song Share" (<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/thr-esq/jury-decides-village-people-ymca-779420>). *The Hollywood Reporter*.
33. "The Village People's YMCA is preserved for posterity" (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-52033153>). *BBC News*. March 25, 2020.
34. Blistein, Jon (June 8, 2020). "Village People Singer Victor Willis Tells Trump to Stop Using Their Music at Rallies" (<https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-news/village-people-singer-victor-willis-trump-ymca-macho-man-rally-1011613/>). *Rolling Stone*. Retrieved October 25, 2020.
35. Keveney, Bill. "'SNL' Weekend Update: Village People rewrite lyrics to order Trump to stop playing 'Y.M.C.A.'" (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/entertainment/tv/2020/10/25/snl-village-people-trump-ymca/6031261002/>). *USA TODAY*. Retrieved October 25, 2020.
36. Mike Wass (November 3, 2020). "Village People's 'Y.M.C.A.'" Is Top 20 On US iTunes" (<https://www.idolator.com/7915833/village-peoples-y-m-c-a-is-top-20-on-us-itunes>). *idolator*.
37. "Dance/Electronic Digital Song Sales Chart" (<https://www.billboard.com/charts/dance-electronic-digital-song-sales/2020-11-14>).
38. "Philadelphians are dancing in the streets to celebrate Joe Biden's lead in Pennsylvania" (<https://www.businessinsider.com/video-philadelphia-residents-celebrate-joe-bidens-victory-in-the-state-2020-11>).
39. Amatulli, Jenna (January 20, 2021). "Trump Ends Presidency Blasting 'YMCA' As He Boards Air Force One, Twitter Takes Off" ([https://www.huffpost.com/entry/trump-village-people-ymca\\_n\\_60083bd4c5b62c0057c20812](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/trump-village-people-ymca_n_60083bd4c5b62c0057c20812)). *Huffpost*. Retrieved January 20, 2021.
40. Kent, David (1993). *Australian Chart Book 1970–1992* (illustrated ed.). St Ives, N.S.W.: Australian Chart Book. p. 329. ISBN 0-646-11917-6.
41. "Australia n°1 Hits – 70's" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20140424142031/http://www.worldcharts.co.uk/chartfeatures/aus/aus70.htm>). *Worldcharts.co.uk*. Archived from the original (<http://www.worldcharts.co.uk/chartfeatures/aus/aus70.htm>) on April 24, 2014. Retrieved June 10, 2013.
42. "Austriancharts.at – Village People – Y.M.C.A." (<https://austriancharts.at/showitem.asp?interpret=Village+People&titel=Y.M.C.A.&cat=s>) (in German). Ö3 Austria Top 40.
43. "Ultratop.be – Village People – Y.M.C.A." (<https://www.ultratop.be/nl/showitem.asp?interpret=Village+People&titel=Y.M.C.A.&cat=s>) (in Dutch). Ultratop 50.
44. "Y.M.C.A. in Canadian Adult Contemporary Chart" ([https://web.archive.org/web/20160316052205/http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/rpm/028020-119.01-e.php?&file\\_num=nlc008388.0075&type=1&interval=50&PHPSESSID=u9874ano8k0c5b6b6kp4r8qrbp3](https://web.archive.org/web/20160316052205/http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/rpm/028020-119.01-e.php?&file_num=nlc008388.0075&type=1&interval=50&PHPSESSID=u9874ano8k0c5b6b6kp4r8qrbp3)). Library and Archives Canada. Archived from the original ([http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/rpm/028020-119.01-e.php?&file\\_num=nlc008388.0075&type=1&interval=50&PHPSESSID=u9874ano8k0c5b6b6kp4r8qrbp3](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/rpm/028020-119.01-e.php?&file_num=nlc008388.0075&type=1&interval=50&PHPSESSID=u9874ano8k0c5b6b6kp4r8qrbp3)) on March 16, 2016. Retrieved June 3, 2013.

45. "Y.M.C.A. in Canadian Disco Singles Chart" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20121228014032/http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/rpm/028020-119.01-e.php>). Library and Archives Canada. Archived from the original ([http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/rpm/028020-119.01-e.php?&file\\_num=nlc008388.4507&type=1&interval=50&PHPSESSID=u9874ano8k0c5b6b6kp4r8qrbp3](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/rpm/028020-119.01-e.php?&file_num=nlc008388.4507&type=1&interval=50&PHPSESSID=u9874ano8k0c5b6b6kp4r8qrbp3)) on December 28, 2012. Retrieved June 3, 2013.
46. "Y.M.C.A. in Canadian Top 15 12inch Chart (with Macho man)" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20121228014032/http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/rpm/028020-119.01-e.php>). Library and Archives Canada. Archived from the original ([http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/rpm/028020-119.01-e.php?&file\\_num=nlc008388.0063&type=1&interval=50&PHPSESSID=u9874ano8k0c5b6b6kp4r8qrbp3](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/rpm/028020-119.01-e.php?&file_num=nlc008388.0063&type=1&interval=50&PHPSESSID=u9874ano8k0c5b6b6kp4r8qrbp3)) on December 28, 2012. Retrieved June 3, 2013.
47. "Y.M.C.A. in Canadian Top Singles Chart" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20121228014032/http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/rpm/028020-119.01-e.php>). Library and Archives Canada. Archived from the original ([http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/rpm/028020-119.01-e.php?&file\\_num=nlc008388.0091a&type=1&interval=20&PHPSESSID=u9874ano8k0c5b6b6kp4r8qrbp3](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/rpm/028020-119.01-e.php?&file_num=nlc008388.0091a&type=1&interval=20&PHPSESSID=u9874ano8k0c5b6b6kp4r8qrbp3)) on December 28, 2012. Retrieved June 3, 2013.
48. "Toutes les Chansons N° 1 des Années 70" ([https://web.archive.org/web/20140330183336/http://infodisc.fr/Number1\\_70.php](https://web.archive.org/web/20140330183336/http://infodisc.fr/Number1_70.php)) (in French). Infodisc.fr. June 3, 2013. Archived from the original ([http://www.infodisc.fr/Number1\\_70.php](http://www.infodisc.fr/Number1_70.php)) on March 30, 2014. Retrieved June 3, 2013.
49. "Offiziellecharts.de – Village People – Y.M.C.A." (<https://www.offiziellecharts.de/titel-details-546>) (in German). GfK Entertainment Charts. Retrieved February 13, 2019.
50. "Ireland singles charts" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090602061251/http://www.irishcharts.ie/search/placement>). Irishcharts.ie. Archived from the original (<http://www.irishcharts.ie/search/placement>) on June 2, 2009. Retrieved May 13, 2014.
51. "Nederlandse Top 40 – Village People" (<https://www.top40.nl/top40-artiesten/Village-People>) (in Dutch). Dutch Top 40.
52. "Dutchcharts.nl – Village People – Y.M.C.A." (<https://dutchcharts.nl/showitem.asp?interpret=Village+People&titel=Y.M.C.A.&cat=s>) (in Dutch). Single Top 100.
53. "Charts.nz – Village People – Y.M.C.A." (<https://charts.nz/showitem.asp?interpret=Village+People&titel=Y.M.C.A.&cat=s>). Top 40 Singles.
54. "Norwegiancharts.com – Village People – Y.M.C.A." (<https://norwegiancharts.com/showitem.asp?interpret=Village+People&titel=Y.M.C.A.&cat=s>). VG-lista.
55. John Samson. "Y.M.C.A. in South African Chart" ([http://www.rock.co.za/files/springbok\\_top\\_20\\_\(V\).html](http://www.rock.co.za/files/springbok_top_20_(V).html)). Retrieved June 3, 2013.
56. Salaverri, Fernando (February 1979). *Sólo éxitos: año a año, 1959–2002* (1st ed.). Spain: Fundación Autor-SGAE. ISBN 84-8048-639-2.
57. "Swedishcharts.com – Village People – Y.M.C.A." (<https://swedishcharts.com/showitem.asp?interpret=Village+People&titel=Y.M.C.A.&cat=s>). Singles Top 100.
58. "Swisscharts.com – Village People – Y.M.C.A." (<http://swisscharts.com/showitem.asp?interpret=Village+People&titel=Y.M.C.A.&cat=s>). Swiss Singles Chart.
59. "Village People" ([http://www.officialcharts.com/artist/\\_/village%20people/](http://www.officialcharts.com/artist/_/village%20people/)). Official Charts Company. Retrieved June 3, 2013.
60. "Village People Chart History - Billboard Hot 100" (<https://www.billboard.com/music/village-people/chart-history/hot-100>). Billboard. Retrieved February 15, 2018.
61. "Village People Chart History - Dance Club Songs" (<https://www.billboard.com/music/village-people/chart-history/dance-club-play-songs>). Billboard. Retrieved February 15, 2018.
62. "Village People Chart History - Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs" (<https://www.billboard.com/music/village-people/chart-history/r-b-hip-hop-songs>). Billboard. Retrieved February 15, 2018.
63. "Cash Box Top 100 2/03/79" ([https://web.archive.org/web/20150214174823/http://tropicalglen.com/Archives/70s\\_files/19790203.html](https://web.archive.org/web/20150214174823/http://tropicalglen.com/Archives/70s_files/19790203.html)). *Tropicalglen.com*. Archived from the original ([http://tropicalglen.com/Archives/70s\\_files/19790203.html](http://tropicalglen.com/Archives/70s_files/19790203.html)) on February 14, 2015. Retrieved August 13, 2017.


64. "The ARIA Australian Top 100 Singles Chart – Week Ending 03 Apr 1994" (<http://i.imgur.com/lAzkwcC.jpg>). ARIA. Retrieved February 27, 2016.
65. "Y.M.C.A. and Y.M.C.A. '93 in Irish Chart" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090602061251/http://www.irishcharts.ie/search/placement>). IRMA. Archived from the original (<http://www.irishcharts.ie/search/placement>) on June 2, 2009. Retrieved June 3, 2013. Only results when searching "Y.M.C.A."
66. "Y.M.C.A. '93 in New Zealand Chart" (<https://charts.nz/showitem.asp?interpret=Village+People&title=Y%2EM%2EC%2EA%2E+%2793+Remix&cat=s>). IRMA. Retrieved June 6, 2013.
67. "Dance Singles" (<https://worldradiohistory.com/UK/Music-Week/1993/Music-Week-1993-12-04.pdf>) (PDF). *Music Week*. December 4, 1993. p. 22. Retrieved April 9, 2021.
68. "Official Dance Singles Chart Top 40" (<http://www.officialcharts.com/charts/dance-singles-chart/19991107/104/>). officialcharts.com.
69. Hung, Steffen. "australian-charts.com - Forum - Top 100 End of Year AMR Charts - 1980s (ARIA Charts: Special Occasion Charts)" (<http://australian-charts.com/forum.asp?todo=viewthread&id=40275>). *Australian-charts.com*. Retrieved August 13, 2017.
70. Canada, Library and Archives (July 17, 2013). "Image : RPM Weekly" (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/films-videos-sound-recordings/rpm/Pages/image.aspx?Image=nlc008388.6855a&URLjpg=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/028020/f4/nlc008388.6855a.gif&Ecopy=nlc008388.6855a>). *Collectionscanada.ca*. Retrieved August 13, 2017.
71. "The Official New Zealand Music Chart" (<http://nztop40.co.nz/chart/?chart=3868>). *Nztop40.co.nz*. Retrieved August 13, 2017.
72. "Top Singles 1979". *Music Week*. London, England: Spotlight Publications. December 22, 1979. p. 27.
73. "Top 100 Hits of 1979/Top 100 Songs of 1979" (<http://www.musicoutfitters.com/topsongs/1979.htm>). *Musicoutfitters.com*. Retrieved August 13, 2017.
74. "Cash Box YE Pop Singles - 1979" ([https://web.archive.org/web/20140713094315/http://tropicalglen.com/Archives/70s\\_files/1979YESP.html](https://web.archive.org/web/20140713094315/http://tropicalglen.com/Archives/70s_files/1979YESP.html)). *Tropicalglen.com*. Archived from the original ([http://tropicalglen.com/Archives/70s\\_files/1979YESP.html](http://tropicalglen.com/Archives/70s_files/1979YESP.html)) on July 13, 2014. Retrieved August 13, 2017.
75. "Billboard Hot 100 60th Anniversary Interactive Chart" (<https://www.billboard.com/charts/hot-100-60th-anniversary>). *Billboard*. Retrieved December 10, 2018.
76. Anthonissen, Juul (May 12, 1979). "From The Music Capitals Of The World - Brussels" (<https://www.americanradiohistory.com/Archive-Billboard/70s/1979/Billboard%201979-05-12.pdf>) (PDF). *Billboard*. p. 69. Retrieved July 28, 2019.
77. "Canadian single certifications – Village People – YMCA" ([https://musiccanada.com/gold-platinum/?gp\\_search=YMCA%20Village+People](https://musiccanada.com/gold-platinum/?gp_search=YMCA%20Village+People)). Music Canada. Retrieved March 29, 2012.
78. "Les Singles en Or" ([https://archive.today/20120803154028/http://www.infodisc.fr/S\\_Certif\\_Or.php?debut=486](https://archive.today/20120803154028/http://www.infodisc.fr/S_Certif_Or.php?debut=486)) (in French). Infodisc.fr. Archived from the original ([http://www.infodisc.fr/S\\_Certif\\_Or.php?debut=486](http://www.infodisc.fr/S_Certif_Or.php?debut=486)) on August 3, 2012. Retrieved March 29, 2012.
79. "French single certifications – Village People – Y.M.C.A." ([http://www.infodisc.fr/Chanson\\_Certifications.php](http://www.infodisc.fr/Chanson_Certifications.php)) (in French). InfoDisc. *Select* VILLAGE PEOPLE *and click* OK.
80. "Golden Association" (<https://books.google.com/books?id=JSUEAAAAMBAJ&q=yymca+village+people+germany+billboard&pg=PT128>). *Billboard*. January 27, 1979. p. 93. Retrieved November 27, 2020 – via Google Books.
81. "Gold-/Platin-Datenbank (Village People; 'Y.M.C.A.')" (<http://www.musikindustrie.de/markt-bestseller/gold-/platin-und-diamond-auszeichnung/datenbank/?action=suche&strTitel=Y.M.C.A.&strInterpret=Village+People&strTtArt=alle&strAwards=checked>) (in German). Bundesverband Musikindustrie.
82. "Italian single certifications – Village People – YMCA" (<https://www.fimi.it/top-of-the-music/certificazioni/certificazioni.kl#/certificazioni>) (in Italian). Federazione Industria Musicale Italiana. Retrieved November 27, 2020. Select "2019" in the "Anno" drop-down menu. Select "YMCA" in the "Filtra" field. Select "Singoli" under "Sezione".

83. "List of best-selling international singles in Japan" ([https://web.archive.org/web/20160304054247/http://homepage1.nifty.com/tuty/chart\\_japan\\_yougaku\\_singlesales3.htm](https://web.archive.org/web/20160304054247/http://homepage1.nifty.com/tuty/chart_japan_yougaku_singlesales3.htm)). JP&KIYO. 2002. Archived from the original ([http://homepage1.nifty.com/tuty/chart\\_japan\\_yougaku\\_singlesales3.htm](http://homepage1.nifty.com/tuty/chart_japan_yougaku_singlesales3.htm)) on March 4, 2016. Retrieved February 26, 2013.
84. "Gold/Silver Record Chart" (<https://books.google.com/books?id=hAkEAAAAMBAJ&q=%22italy%22+%22no+Silver+disk+for+singles%22>). Billboard. December 26, 1974. Retrieved April 15, 2019.
85. "Dutch single certifications – Village People – Y.M.C.A." (<https://nvpi.nl/nvpi-audio/marktinformatie/goud-platina/>) (in Dutch). Nederlandse Vereniging van Producenten en Importeurs van beeld- en geluidsdragers. *Enter Y.M.C.A. in the "Artiest of titel" box*.
86. "Pride special: Celebrating the biggest selling singles by LGBT artists" ([http://www.officialcharts.com/chart-news/pride-special-celebrating-the-biggest-selling-singles-by-lgbt-artists\\_\\_15453/](http://www.officialcharts.com/chart-news/pride-special-celebrating-the-biggest-selling-singles-by-lgbt-artists__15453/)). The Official Charts Company. June 25, 2016.
87. "British single certifications – Village People – Y.M.C.A." (<https://www.bpi.co.uk/brit-certified/>) British Phonographic Industry. Retrieved March 29, 2012. *Select singles in the Format field. Select Platinum in the Certification field. Type Y.M.C.A. in the "Search BPI Awards" field and then press Enter.*
88. "American single certifications – Village People – Y.M.C.A." ([https://www.riaa.com/gold-platinum/?tab\\_active=default-award&ar=Village+People&ti=Y.M.C.A.#search\\_section](https://www.riaa.com/gold-platinum/?tab_active=default-award&ar=Village+People&ti=Y.M.C.A.#search_section)) Recording Industry Association of America. Retrieved March 29, 2012. *If necessary, click Advanced, then click Format, then select Single, then click SEARCH.*
89. "Glenn Hughes" (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/1326570/Glenn-Hughes.html>). *The Daily Telegraph*. London. March 16, 2001. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20120316005916/http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/1326570/Glenn-Hughes.html>) from the original on March 16, 2012. Retrieved November 26, 2020.
90. "YOUNG MAN(Y.M.C.A.)" ([http://www.billboard-japan.com/chart\\_insight/detail?kind=h100&date=2018-05-28&main=130071#graph\\_sort=chartin&rank\\_or\\_point=rank&show\\_week=150](http://www.billboard-japan.com/chart_insight/detail?kind=h100&date=2018-05-28&main=130071#graph_sort=chartin&rank_or_point=rank&show_week=150)). *Billboard Japan* (in Japanese). Retrieved January 7, 2021.
91. "西城秀樹さん、「YOUNG MAN」などヒット曲多数 男性ソロ歴代6位のシングル総売上1159万枚" (<https://www.oricon.co.jp/news/2111628/full/>). *Oricon* (in Japanese). Retrieved January 7, 2021.
92. "Touche - YMCA (ft. Krayzee, prod. Dieter Bohlen)" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPh19tG7D-Y>). YouTube.
93. "Touché feat. Krayzee - YMCA - hitparade.ch" (<https://hitparade.ch/song/Touche-feat.-Krayzee/YMCA-3765>). *Hitparade.ch*.
94. "Touché feat. Krayzee - YMCA" (<http://www.ultratop.be/fr/showitemurl.asp?cat=s&id=eb5&realurl=/fr/song/eb5/touche-feat.-krayzee-ymca>). *Ultratop.be*.

## External links

- Lyrics of this song (<https://www.metrolyrics.com/ymca-lyrics-village-people.html>) at MetroLyrics

### External video

 Original 1978 music video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CS9OO0S5w2k>)

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Y.M.C.A.\\_\(song\)&oldid=1031335422](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Y.M.C.A._(song)&oldid=1031335422)"

This page was last edited on 1 July 2021, at 02:19 (UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.

