

'Sing across rooftops': Bono writes coronavirus song dedicated to Italy

---

By: Ben Beaumont-Thomas  
18/03/2020



U2 frontman Bono has performed his first new music since 2017 with a song inspired by Italians quarantined during the coronavirus outbreak.

He posted the new song, *Let Your Love Be Known*, to his Instagram account with the caption: “For the Italians who inspired it... for the Irish... for ANYONE who this St Patrick’s Day is in a tight spot and still singing. For the doctors, nurses, carers on the front line, it’s you we’re singing to.”

Apparently at home in Dublin, he says he wrote *Let Your Love Be Known* an hour before posting it, and performs it solo on piano. The lyrics see him walk through a deserted Dublin, and speak of isolation and fear amid the coronavirus outbreak. But inspired by the footage of quarantined Italians singing to each other from their balconies, he sings: “You can’t touch but you can sing across rooftops / sing to me down the phone / sing and promise me you won’t stop / sing and you’re never alone.”

The song was released on St Patrick’s Day as celebrations were cancelled in Ireland and worldwide because of social distancing guidelines.

U2's most recent album was Songs of Experience, released in December 2017. They performed a world tour, Innocence and Experience, in 2018, and in 2019 took their Joshua Tree anniversary tour to Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

## Lyrics to Let Your Love Be Known

Yes there was silence  
yes there was no people here  
yes I walked through the streets of Dublin and no-one was near  
Yes I don't know you  
No I didn't think I didn't care  
You live so very far away from just across the square

And I can't reach but I can rain  
You can't touch but you can sing  
Across rooftops  
Sing down the phone  
Sing and promise me you won't stop  
Sing your love, be known, let your love be known.  
Sign up for the Sleeve Notes email: music news, bold reviews and unexpected extras  
Read more

Yes there is isolation  
You and me we're still here  
Yes when we open our eyes we will stare down the fear  
And maybe I've said the wrong thing  
Yes I made you smile  
I guess the longest distance is always the last mile.

And I can't reach but I can rain  
You can't touch but you can sing  
Across rooftops  
Sing to me down the phone  
Sing and promise me you won't stop  
Sing and you're never alone.

Sing as an act of resistance  
Sing though your heart is overthrown  
When you sing there is no distance  
So let your love be known, oh let your love be known  
Though your heart is overthrown.  
Let your love be known.

