



ARTICLE

# 54

# STAYIN' ALIVE

**Another disco symphony to commemorate something we all wish had never happened.**

Join us on a handclap-fuelled 35-minute journey, encompassing fear, boredom, sadness and disbelief.

Disco doesn't make everything better.  
But if we're not going out, we may as well get down.



# STAYIN' ALIVE

Written, arranged and produced by Rhodri Marsden

Susannah Henry - vocals

Sharron Fortnam - vocals

Helene Bradley - vocals

Mira Manga - vocals

Piney Gir - vocals

Rhodri Marsden - keyboards, bass, guitar

Pete Fraser - sax

Steve Pretty - trumpet

Rob Smoughton - additional guitar

# NOT GOING OUT TONIGHT

We're at the end of one more typical day  
And we're not going out tonight  
Get out your sequinned jacket then put it away  
Because you're not going out tonight  
Your party time has been badly delayed  
So you're not going out tonight  
It's another solitary masquerade  
Cos we're not going out tonight, uh-huh-huh

Forget everything you planned  
Stay inside and wash your hands  
We got ennui on demand in our gloomy wonderland

All the music's totally suited to you  
Because you're not going out tonight  
And you're never gonna have to queue for the loo  
Because you're not going out tonight  
You can self serve in your own restaurant  
Cos you're not going out tonight  
You know that you can do whatever you want  
Except you're not going out tonight, uh-huh-huh

You got the most exclusive ticket in town  
Cos you're not going out tonight  
Not gonna get on up or even boogie on down  
No you're not going out tonight  
All the clubs are shut and every cinema too  
So we're not going out tonight  
No, we're not going out tonight

I'm sorry baby, but we're not going out tonight  
You're not gonna hold me, I'm not gonna hold you  
We're not going out tonight, uh-huh-huh



# THE ENEMY

We're gonna grind this danger into dust  
(Fight or die, fight or die, fight or die)  
And patriotic fervour is a must  
(Fight or die, fight or die, fight or die)

There's evil knockin' at the backdoor  
So we decided to declare war  
Don't dare to ask us what it's good for  
Just wave a flag and fly the banner so high

We're gonna kill the enemy  
So go and fetch a gun that's a nanometre long  
Forget the biochemistry  
We need you to be strong  
A fearless army of volunteers

We're totally prepared for an attack  
But there'll be damage to collateral, that's a fact

We're being guided by the science  
As long as science shows compliance  
No, this is no time for defiance  
Just wave a flag and fly the banner so high

We're gonna kill the enemy  
So go and fetch a gun that's a nanometre long  
I say to thee respectfully  
Come join us in the song  
Don't keep calm and carry on  
Forget the biochemistry  
We need you to be strong  
A fearless army of volunteers

# LOCKDOWN BLUES

I really wanna see ya  
I know it's been way too long  
There's a way we're allowed to hook up if you wanna play along  
Cosy little meeting with a subtle touch of spice  
Brings virtual collaboration into our social life

New communication  
Application integration too  
Some corporate administration could connect me with you  
Tell me are you with me?  
I've made a little link for you  
In the words of dear Aretha, baby, who is zoomin' who?

Can... you... see me? Can you even hear me now?  
I know a little online tutorial, maybe that'll show you how  
I really wanna catch up  
You gotta tell me all your news  
If we can leap this little hurdle, we'll shoo away the lockdown blues

You're looking kinda pasty  
Or maybe that is just the light  
I can't hear you while I'm talking about my uneventful night  
Tell me 'bout your dinner  
I'll tell you 'bout my dinner too  
Then we'll say goodbye and end this pixelated interview

How was that for you, babe?  
I think it really wore me out  
I'm happy with your telepresence but I'm happier without  
Our personal connection is always gonna be so true  
We don't need a teleconference to get through the lockdown blues



# ONE STEP CLOSER

One step closer is not something I'm recommending, boy  
One step closer is more like one metre than two  
Hold your breath and just show me some spatial awareness, boy  
And don't blame me for not wanting to be near to you

I can't give you a guarantee  
That you can be where you want to be  
If you really loved me  
Then you'd stay away from me

One step further – now I'm digging your choreography  
One step further – so we're either side of the wall  
Take more interest in my interest in social geography  
Don't hold me tight – in fact don't even hold me at all

I can't give you a guarantee  
That you can be where you want to be  
If you really loved me  
You wouldn't breathe over me

I can't give you a guarantee  
That you can be where you want to be  
If you really loved me  
Then you'd stay away from me

You don't know about my underlying condition boy  
So stop your habit of turning up out of the blue  
Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh

# THIS IS SHIT

We're losing loved ones  
And loved ones of loved ones  
We're losing mothers, and fathers  
And uncles and aunts and cousins  
And all our problems and troubles are multiplying by dozens

Impossible to make it sound better, yeah (this is shit)  
It's like a global vendetta, yeah (this is shit)  
Feels like it's going on for ever, yeah (this is shit)  
By any reasonable measure, yeah, this is shit

We're really trying to keep on complying  
But people are dying, we're crying, it's really unsatisfying  
And that orange guy is denying he's lying – it's terrifying

Impossible to make it sound better, yeah (this is shit)  
It's like a global vendetta, yeah (this is shit)  
Feels like it's going on for ever, yeah (this is shit)  
By any reasonable measure, yeah, this is shit

Companies are failing  
In spite of the bailing out they're unveiling  
Impossible to make it sound better, yeah (this is shit)  
It's like a global vendetta, yeah (this is shit)  
By any reasonable measure, yeah (this is shit)  
Baby, this is shit

As the outlook blackens  
We long for action, compassion  
We're hoping those curves will flatten  
We're feeling battered, in tatters  
There's only one thing that matters



# UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

Unprecedented times  
Restless state of mind  
Far too much surprise  
In unprecedented times

Unprecedented times  
Can't you see the signs?  
Scales fall from your eyes  
In unprecedented times

Non-stop wonder, shocks galore  
Swings and roundabouts  
Things we never bargained for  
Come day in and day out  
The unforeseen will strike without  
A shadow of a doubt

Unprecedented times...

Welcome to uncertainty  
That's human life defined  
It's not your fault, you haven't failed  
To read between the lines  
If something weird just happened  
That's unprecedented times

Unprecedented times...

# 5G

5G – It's another international catastrophe  
5G – It's recording all the private thoughts of you and me  
5G – There's a guy who says he works in a laboratory  
5G – And he told us it's a menace to society

The whole conspiracy is infinite  
And we really like the sound of this new idea  
Cos there's nothing like a bit of that old time religion

5G – Would you put an umbrella up when you're indoors?  
5G – Or smash a mirror while you're catching up with Infowars?  
5G – It's at the middle of the sinister corona plan  
5G – Just forget the fact that they don't have it in Iran

The whole conspiracy is infinite  
And we really like the sound of this new idea  
Cos there's nothing like a bit of mass hysteria  
You know, we're really really into it  
And we hope you like the sound of this new idea  
Cos there's nothing like a bit of that old time religion

5G – No we weren't exactly keen on 3G, or 4G, but this is  
5G – one G bigger, and the danger we can guarantee

The whole conspiracy is infinite  
And we really like the sound of this new idea  
Cos there's nothing like a bit of mass hysteria  
You know, we're really really into it  
And we hope you like the sound of this new idea  
Cos there's nothing like a bit of that old time religion



# NEW NORMAL

We're all disguised  
We're canaries going down coal mines  
Moving into these new testing times  
We'll get through it together, but beware of the lies  
And believe the experts

Everything's out of place – is this new normal?  
Needing some breathing space – is this new normal?  
Prohibiting face-to-face – is this new normal?  
Sighing a wistful sigh

Checking phones  
Contemplating all the great unknowns  
Navigating the highs and the lows  
Getting back together, with an arm's length approach  
Just believe the experts

Everything's out of place – is this new normal?  
Needing some breathing space – is this new normal?  
Prohibiting face-to-face – is this new normal?  
Sighing a wistful sigh

# Media Credits

Boris Johnson press conference, 23rd March 2020

Donald Trump press conference, 22nd March 2020

Matt Hancock press conference, 25th May 2020

Sophie Raworth, BBC News, 9th April 2020

Dawna Friesen and Jeff Semple, Global News, 14th May 2020

Dominic Raab, Sky News, 26th April 2020