



# TUNE INTO ENGLISH Scorpions'

## Wind of Change

Ogni band *hair metal* nasconde un lato morbido dietro la distorsione, così il quintetto tedesco ha fatto breccia con una ballata che anticipa la caduta del muro di Berlino.

In 1989, shortly before the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the decades-long<sup>1</sup> Cold War, German hard-rock band Scorpions performed in Moscow, then capital of the USSR. While on a boat on the Moskva River, frontman<sup>2</sup> Klaus Meine, sensing the general optimism of the time, began whistling<sup>3</sup> the melody of what became the song *Wind of Change*. Within<sup>4</sup> a few days he had written the song, which guitarist Rudolf Schenker called “a kind of message soundtrack to the world’s most peaceful revolution on earth.” The now-iconic whistling at the start of the track almost did not make<sup>5</sup> the final version. The record company wanted the band’s signature<sup>6</sup> heavy guitar, but initial recordings didn’t work out<sup>7</sup>.

Written almost entirely in the present (simple and continuous), the song fea-

tures the singer walking around Moscow noticing<sup>8</sup> how things are about to change, using the imperative in the chorus<sup>9</sup> to hope that change will come soon. In 1991, following the collapse<sup>10</sup> of the Soviet Communist regime, then-leader Mikhail Gorbachev invited The Scorpions to a private meeting where they donated \$70,000 to the country’s hospitals. In recent concerts, however, they have changed the opening lines<sup>11</sup> to “Now listen to my heart, it says Ukraine, waiting for the wind to change”.

One of the biggest-selling singles of all time, *Wind of Change* has become one of the most iconic political songs of the 20th century. A rumour even circulated that it was written by the CIA as a form of cold war propaganda — a claim<sup>12</sup> that Klaus Meine denies to this day. ☺



Above: German rock band Scorpions in 2010, left to right: Paweł Maćiwoda, Matthias Jabs, Klaus Meine, James Kottak and Rudolf Schenker. Left: their 1990 album “Crazy World”.



SCAN, READ & LISTEN

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LOWER INTERMEDIATE B1

### GLOSSARY

- 1 **decades-long:** della durata di diversi decenni
- 2 **frontman:** leader
- 3 **to whistle:** fischiare
- 4 **within:** entro
- 5 **to make:** riuscire
- 6 **signature:** distintivo, caratteristico
- 7 **to work out:** funzionare
- 8 **to notice:** notare
- 9 **chorus:** ritornello
- 10 **collapse:** crollo
- 11 **opening lines:** versi iniziali
- 12 **claim:** affermazione

**I follow the Moskva down to Gorky Park:** the river Moskva takes its name from the Russian for Moscow and flows through the city. The singer is walking beside it to Gorky Park, named after Soviet author Maxim Gorky. It is a centre of culture and leisure, used here to symbolise walking to freedom.

**dream away:** to spend time thinking pleasant thoughts about one’s life or future.

**memories are buried:** this means people don’t think about the past anymore.

**let your balalaika sing what my guitar wants to say:** the balalaika is a Russian stringed musical instrument. Although it doesn’t sing, and a guitar doesn’t speak, it is a request for the Russians to help him make the change happen.

I follow the Moskva down to Gorky Park

Listening to the wind of change

An August summer night, soldiers passing by

Listening to the **wind of change**

The world is **closing in**

And did you ever think

That we could be so close like brothers?

The future’s **in the air**, I can feel it everywhere

Blowing with the wind of change

Take me to the magic of the moment

On a glory night

Where the children of tomorrow **dream away**

(dream away)

In the wind of change

Walking down the street

And distant **memories are buried** in the past forever

I follow the Moskva and down to Gorky Park

Listening to the wind of change

Take me (take me) to the magic of the moment

On a glory night (a glory night)

Where the children of tomorrow share their dreams

(share their dreams)

With you and me (you and me)

Take me (take me) to the magic of the moment

On a glory night (a glory night)

Where the children of tomorrow dream away

(dream away)

In the wind of change (the wind of change)

The wind of change blows straight into **the face of time**

Like a storm wind that will ring the freedom bell

For peace of mind

**Let your balalaika sing what my guitar wants to say,**

(say)

Take me (take me) to the magic of the moment

On a glory night (a glory night)

Where the children of tomorrow share their dreams

(share their dreams)

With you and me (you and me)

Take me (take me) to the magic of the moment

On a glory night (a glory night)

Where the children of tomorrow dream

away (dream away)

In the wind of change (wind of change)

**wind of change:** this is a phrase meaning there are forces that can make a change.

**closing in:** this means to gradually get closer, meaning the Soviet Union will soon be free of oppression.

**in the air:** this phrase means people feel something is about to happen (think of “love is in the air!”).

**the face of time:** this means the change will forever be a part of history.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone or tablet and listen to the official song on YouTube while reading the lyrics.



Fergal Kavanagh runs the website [www.tuneintoenglish.com](http://www.tuneintoenglish.com), the web’s largest free resource for learning English through pop music.

