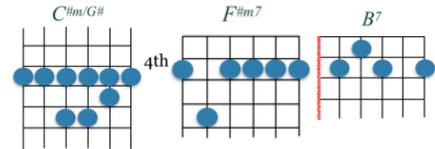


# Today

Words & Music by Randy Sparks © 1964 all rights reserved

## CHORUS

*E* *C#m/G#* *F#m7* *B7*  
Today while the blossoms still cling to the vine,  
*E* *C#m/G#* *F#m7* *B7*  
I'll taste your strawberries, I'll drink you sweet wine.  
*E* *E7* *A* *A<sup>m</sup>*  
A million tomorrows will all pass away,  
*E* *C#m/G#* *F#m7* *B7* *E* *C#m/G#* *F#m7* *B7*  
Ere I forget all the joy that is mine today.



*E* *C#m/G#* *F#m7* *B7*  
I'll be a dandy and I'll be a rover,  
*E* *C#m/G#* *F#m7* *B7*  
You'll know who I am by the song that I sing.  
*E* *C#m/G#* *F#m7* *B7*  
I'll feast at your table, I'll sleep in your clover,  
*A* *B7* *E* *B7*  
Who cares what tomorrow shall bring.

## CHORUS

*E* *C#m/G#* *F#m7* *B7*  
I can't be contented with yesterday's glory,  
*E* *C#m/G#* *F#m7* *B7*  
I can't live on promises winter to spring.  
*E* *C#m/G#* *F#m7* *B7*  
Today is my moment and now is my story,  
*A* *B7* *E* *B7*  
I'll laugh and I'll cry and I'll sing!

## CHORUS

# History

*Today* is an awkward album. The record company probably intended it to be called Advance To The Rear (Original Soundtrack), which it was for the 1964 comedy about an inept cavalry troop during the Civil War.



But "**Today**" was the hit song in the spring of 1964 and that seemed the safer and more commercial choice for the album title; thus, the front cover emphasized the group and the hit, while the back cover was devoted to *Advance To the Rear*, the movie.

The achingly beautiful ballad "Today" (a major hit) is the standout track. As an album, *Today* did little to enhance the New Christy Minstrels' reputation or legacy -- ironically enough, the movie *Advance To The Rear* might have had more impact on popular culture, as it was almost certainly

one of the inspirations behind the television series *F-Troop*. "Today" was reissued in 1997 by Collectables and paired with *Ramblin'* on the same CD.

*Review by Bruce Eder from [www.allmusic.com/album/today](http://www.allmusic.com/album/today)*

**The New Christy Minstrels:** in 1961, Randy Sparks gathered together ten singers and musicians to record his songs for Columbia Records. Columbia wanted to tour the group and The New Christy Minstrels were formed. Sparks was the chief songwriter and group leader keeping the sound consistent, even as members came and went. The group's debut album, *Presenting The New Christy Minstrels: Exciting New Folk Chorus*, won a Grammy Award for Best Performance by a Chorus. The Grammy win helped drive the album up the charts, coupling with a year-long contract to appear on Andy Williams' TV show and performances onstage at the Troubadour in Los Angeles to solidify the mainstream popularity of The New Christy Minstrels. Sparks later stopped performing with the Minstrels to focus on his songwriting, producing a string of hits. He now lives on a ranch in Mokelumne Hill, California, touring occasionally with former Minstrels and new group members as Randy Sparks & The Minstrels.

*See [www.folkalley.com/](http://www.folkalley.com/) for more on this and recorded interviews by Jim Blum with Randy Sparks.*