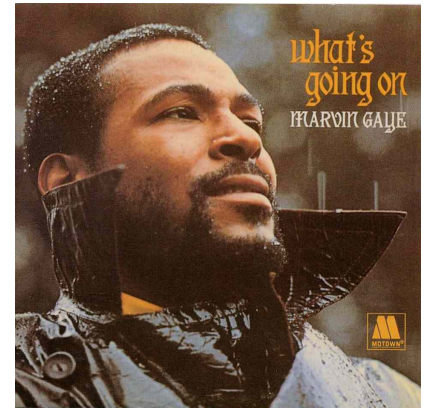


What's Going On

Alfred Cleveland, Renaldo Benson og Marvin Gaye (1970)

[I albumversionen:

*Rrrr. Hey, hey. Hey, what's happening? Brother, what's up!
Big party, man. Brother, dig this. Sucker! Right on!
What's your name? ... Hoo! Everything is everything.
To the get-down of things.]*



- 1 Mother, mother,
There's too many of you crying
Brother, brother, brother,
There's far too many of you dying.
- 5 You know we've got to find a way
To bring some loving here today.
- Father, father,
We don't need to escalate
You see, war is not the answer
- 10 For only love can conquer hate.
You know we've got to find a way
To bring some loving here today, oh, aw.
- Picket lines (*sister*), and picket signs (*sister*),
Don't punish me (*sister*) with brutality (*sister*).
- 15 Talk to me (*sister*),
So you can see (*sister*)
- Oh what's going on (*what's going on*)
What's going on (*what's going on*)
Yeah what's going on (*what's going on*),
- 20 Oh what's going on (*what's going on*).
- Ih, ah, ah ah ah ah. In the meantime..., Right on, baby. Hu. Right on, baby.
Aya i ya ya i ya ya ya...
- What's happening, brother? Right on! Cool big party...
What's her name, What's her name?
- 25 Smoking! Right on, baby, right on. Right on.
Everything is everything
Bee doo bee doo, ba doo bee doo...
- Mother, mother
Everybody thinks we're wrong.
- 30 Oh but who are they to judge us,
Simply 'cause our hair is long.
Ah, you know we've got to find a way
To bring some understanding here today, oh oh.
- Picket lines (*brother*), and picket signs (*brother*),
- 35 Don't punish me (*brother*) with brutality (*brother*).
Come on talk to me (*brother*),
So you can see (*brother*)
- Oh, what's going on (*what's going on*),
Yeah what's going on (*what's going on*)

40 Tell me what's going on (*what's going on*),
I'll tell you what's going on (*what's going on*).
Right on, Aya i ya ya i ya ya ya...

Besætning:

Vokaler, klaver, tromme: Marvin Gaye

Bas: James Jamerson

Trommer: Chet Forest

Guitar: Joe Messina og Robert White

Vibrafon: Jack Brokensha

Conga: Eddie »Bongo« Brown

Altsax: Eli Fontaine

Baggrundskor: Elgie Stover, Bobby Rodgers

Arrangement: David Van De Pitte

The song's inspiration came from [Renaldo "Obie" Benson](#), a member of the Motown vocal group the [Four Tops](#), after he and the group's tour bus arrived at [Berkeley](#) on May 15, 1969. While there, Benson witnessed [police brutality](#) and [violence](#) in the city's [People's Park](#) during a [protest](#) held by [anti-war](#) activists in what was hailed later as "Bloody Thursday" Upset by the situation, Benson said to author Ben Edmonds that as he saw this, he asked, "What is happening here?" One question led to another. Why are they sending kids so far away from their families overseas? Why are they attacking their own children in the streets?"

[Wiki: What's Going On \(song\)](#)

"In 1969 or 1970, I began to re-evaluate my whole concept of what I wanted my music to say," Marvin Gaye said. "I was very much affected by letters my brother was sending me from Vietnam, as well as the social situation here at home. I realized that I had to put my own fantasies behind me if I wanted to write songs that would reach the souls of people. I wanted them to take a look at what was happening in the world." The masterpiece that followed Gaye's awakening revolutionized black music. From its rich, string-suffused grooves to its boundless sense of possibility, What's Going On is the Sgt. Pepper of soul.

Gaye was determined to shatter Motown's pop formula and address pressing social issues. Motown founder Berry Gordy was not pleased. He claimed that "What's Going On" was the worst song he had ever heard. As for "Mercy Mercy Me (The Ecology)," Gordy asserted that he didn't even know what the word "ecology" meant. Gaye responded that he would never record for Motown again unless "What's Going On" was released as a single. After initially being rejected by Motown's quality-control committee, it was; when the song became a Top Five hit, the album – and a burst of socially conscious music from Motown – followed soon after.

[Rolling Stone Magazine: 500 Greatest Albums of All Time](#)

Ken Sands, lydtekniker på optagelsen: »We recorded two lead vocals that Marvin wanted to compare with one another when each was incorporated into the track,» Sands explains. "He wanted me to make him two 7.5 ips copies that could be played individually, but instead of doing that I made him one stereo 7.5, with the entire track in the centre of the mix, the first vocal on the left hand side and the second vocal on the right. This was to be expeditious, so he could listen to them simultaneously or against each other. As it turned out, singing against himself worked, but I'm not going to take credit for thinking things through and saying, 'This is what I want to happen'. It just happened. That's how a lot of things happen. A lot of brilliance is bred of happenstance.«

[Richard Buskin: Marvin Gaye 'What's Going On?', i SoundOnSound](#)

What's Going On

Marvin Gaye, Al Cleveland & Renaldo Benson

Indspillet af Marvin Gaye, 1970. Nedskrift: TH og JJ

A ♩=98

Altsax

Guitar 1

Guitar 2

Klaver

Bas

Congas

Trommer

fortsætter på lignende vis →

etc. →

etc. →

B

5

7 Emaj

7 C#m

Moth- er, moth- er, there's too ma- ny of you cry- ing.

Kor

Ah, Ooh- ooh. ah- ah.

Gui. 1

Vibra.

Klaver

Bas

Kasse?

(vist papkasse med trommestik)

etc. →

9 ⁷Emaj ⁷C#m

Broth- er, broth- er, broth- er, there's far too ma- ny of you dy- ing.

Gaye 2

Kor

Bas Ah, Ooh- ooh. ah- ah.

12 ⁷F#m ⁷Amaj/H (H ^{11/13})

You know we've got to find a way To bring some lov- ing here to- day,

Gaye 2

Kor Got to find a way

Bas Ah, ah,

16 ⁹H ^C ⁷Emaj ⁷C#m

yeah Fa- ther, fa- ther we don't need to es- ca- late.

Gaye 2

Kor Uh Fa- ther, fa- ther.

Kor som før

Bas ah.

Andre instrumenter som før →

20 ⁷Emaj ⁷C#m

You see, war is not the an- swer for on- ly love can con- quer hate.

Gaye 2

con- quer hate

24 ⁷F#m

You know, we've got to find a way to bring some

Gaye 2

You know we've got to find a way to bring some

27 ⁷Amaj/H ⁹H ⁷F#m D

lov- ing here to- day, no Pick- et lines and

Gaye 2

lov- ing here to- day Ow! Sis- ter

Vl./Vla

Bas *Som for*

Knips

etc.

30 ^{A/H} ⁷F#m ^{A/H} ⁷F#m

pick- et signs, don't pun- ish me with bru- ta- li- ty. Talk to me so

Kor

Sis- ter Sis- ter Sis- ter Sis- ter

Vl./Vla

Bas

34 E ⁷Emaj ⁷C#m

A/H

you can see, oh, What's go-ing on what's go-ing on yeah what's

Kor

Sis-ter A- what's go-ing on A- what's go-ing on

Vl./Vla

Bas

37 ⁷Emaj ⁷C#m

go- ing on, oh, what's go- ing on Ah

Gaye 2

Kor Ih

A- what's go- ing on A- what's go- ing on

Vl./Vla

Bas

39 F ⁹Am ⁹Am ⁹Am ⁹Am

In the meantime...

Right on, baby. Hoo! Right on, baby. a- ya i ya ya i ya ya ya ya

Kor

What's happening, brother? Right on! Cool big party... What's her name, man, what's her name?

Vl./Vla

Celli

Bas

43 ⁹Am ⁹Am ⁹Am ⁹Am

Right on, baby. Right on! a- ya ya ya osv.

Kor
Smoking! Right on! Everything is everything

Vl./Vla *Festsnak fortsætter*

Bas

47 ⁷Amaj/H

Be do be do de de de deb Ba du be dep de dup be

Gaye 2
Hu de deb de de de deb do be do deb

Vl./Vla

Bas

50

be be da da da.

Gaye 2
dep de dup

As

Vl./Vla

Bas

Til vers 3