

WORLD MUSIC

MALTA

WD-MT1 Malta 1977

BLUE GROTTO *

WD – Popular – Combo – Instrumental – Cave Pic Cover

Comp: Willie SALIBA

Perf: **WILLIE & THE BLACK SORROWS**

Willie Saliba (guitar)
(with guitar, bass, & drums)

Prod. Co: Eljayar Studios; Malta

Time: (LP) 3:43 & (45) 3:52 (3:48)

1. LP: BLUE GROTTO (PC-RE-MT1)

Riviera RVLP 2002 (stereo)

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 1)

2. Single **45:**

Anthony d'Amato AD 6045

Flip Sd: Anna

7" 45rpm



Notes: Inspired by the large marine cave on the south coast of the Isle of Malta near Wied iż-Żurrieq. The beauty and symmetry of this cave is such that it has become one of the most outstanding tourist sites on the island. Oldham writes – “To reach the Blue Grotto itself, so-called because of the deep blue of the water inside, boats pass under a monumental arch, resembling a flying buttress in a cathedral. From here you glide into the dark grotto, which goes for 50 m deep in the cliff face.” (Oldham 2002)



The group consisted of three brothers, all from Xghajra near Kalkara, Malta. This is a very pleasant little melody where the lead guitar gets a sound like a mandolin giving the piece a typically Italian-Mediterranean feeling. This guitar carries the piece throughout, repeating the main theme in two registers separated by short drum riffs.

This piece was a local hit and was used as interlude music on Malta

National Television (MTV-PBS).

Ref: Blue Grotto (Malta), [Wikipedia](#)

Hofmann, Peter 2009, *Unterirdisches Malta*, Peter Hofmann, Oberaudorf, Germany, p. 39-40

Oldham, Tony 2002, *Caves of Malta*, Tony Oldham, Cardigan, Wales, p. 5-6

Willie & The Black Sorrows, Blue Grotto, [45cat](#)

Willie & The Black Sorrows, Blue Grotto, [Instromania](#)

Willie & The Black Sorrows, Blue Grotto, (4:34), [soundcloud](#) (◀ **COMPLETE AUDIO SAMPLE**)