

Tears in Heaven



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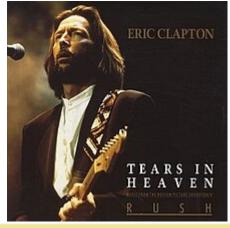
"Tears in Heaven" is a song by Eric Clapton and Will Jennings, from the 1991 Rush film soundtrack. In an interview with Sue Lawley in 1992, Clapton said of the song, "There is a song that I've written for a movie, but in actual fact it was in the back of my head but it didn't really have a reason for being until I was scoring this movie which I did a little while ago and then it sort of had a reason to be. And it is a little ambiguous because it could be taken to be about Conor but it also is meant to be part of the film."[2] Conor, Clapton's four-year-old son, fell from a window of a 53rd-floor New York apartment owned by his mother's friend on March 20, 1991. Clapton arrived at the apartment shortly after the accident.[3]

The song was Clapton's best-selling single in the United States and reached number two on the Billboard Hot 100. It won three Grammy Awards for Best Pop Vocal Performance, Male, Song of the Year, and Record of the Year. In 2004, Rolling Stone ranked "Tears in Heaven" 362nd on the magazine's list of "The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time".

Writing and inspiration

The years following 1990 were extremely turbulent for Clapton. In August 1990, his manager, two of his roadies and his friend and fellow musician Stevie Ray Vaughan were killed in a helicopter accident. Seven months later, on March 20, 1991, Clapton's 4-year-old son Conor died after falling from the 53rd-floor window of his mother's friend's New York City apartment. He landed on the roof of an adjacent four-story building. [4] After isolating himself for a period, Clapton began working again, writing music for a movie about drug addiction called Rush. Clapton dealt with the grief of his son's death by co-writing "Tears in Heaven" with Will Jennings. Shortly after his single was released, he went on to the MTV Unplugged series and recorded a new version of the song. [5] Unplugged topped charts and was nominated for nine Grammy

"Tears in Heaven"



Single by Eric Clapton

from the album Rush: Music from the Motion Picture Soundtrack

B-side	"Tracks and Lines"	
Released	January 8, 1992	
Recorded	1991	
Genre	Soft rock ^[1]	
Length	4:30	
Label	Warner Bros.	
Songwriter(s)	Eric Clapton · Will Jennings	
Producer(s)	Russ Titelman	
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Eric Clapton singles chronology

"Wonderful	"Tears in	"Layla
Tonight	Heaven"	(acoustic
(live)"	(1992)	version)"
(1991)		(1992)

Music video

<u>Awards</u> the year it was released. Clapton made numerous public service announcements to raise awareness for <u>childproofing</u> windows and staircases.

"Tears in Heaven" (https://www.yout ube.com/watch?v=JxPj3GAYYZ0) on YouTube

In an interview with <u>Daphne Barak</u>, Clapton stated, "I almost subconsciously used music for myself as a healing agent, and lo and behold, it worked... I have got a great deal of happiness and a great deal of healing from music". [6]

In an interview, Will Jennings said:

"Eric and I were engaged to write a song for a movie called *Rush*. We wrote a song called 'Help Me Up' for the end of the movie... then Eric saw another place in the movie for a song and he said to me, 'I want to write a song about my boy.' Eric had the first verse of the song written, which, to me, is all the song, but he wanted me to write the rest of the verse lines and the release ('Time can bring you down, time can bend your knees...'), even though I told him that it was so personal he should write everything himself. He told me that he had admired the work I did with <u>Steve Winwood</u> and finally there was nothing else but to do as he requested, despite the sensitivity of the subject. This is a song so personal and so sad that it is unique in my experience of writing songs." [2]

Clapton stopped playing it in 2004, as well as the song "My Father's Eyes", stating: "I didn't feel the loss any more, which is so much a part of performing those songs. I really have to connect with the feelings that were there when I wrote them. They're kind of gone and I really don't want them to come back, particularly. My life is different now. They probably just need a rest and maybe I'll introduce them for a much more detached point of view." Clapton eventually resurrected both songs for his 50th anniversary world tour in 2013.

Awards and nominations

Year	Ceremony	Award	Result	Ref.
	Billboard	Best-Selling Soundtrack Single	Won	[8]
	Golden Globe Awards	Best Original Song	Nominated	[9]
1992	MTV Movie Awards	Best Song from a Movie	Nominated	[10]
1992		Best Cinematography	Nominated	[11]
	MTV Video Music Awards	Best Male Video	Won	[12]
		Best Video from a Film	Nominated	[13]
		Best Instrumental Composition	Nominated	[14]
1993 <u>Grammy Awards</u>	Best Pop Vocal Performance Male	Won	[15]	
	Best Song Written for a Motion Picture, Television or Other Visual Media	Nominated	[16]	
	Best Song Written Specifically for a Motion Picture or for Television	Nominated	[17]	
		Record of the Year	Won	[18]
		Song of the Year	Won	[19]
2004	Rock and Roll Hall of Fame	Songs That Shaped Rock and Roll	Won	[20]
	Rolling Stone	The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time	#362	[21]
2015	About	Top 10 Best Songs of 1992	#5	[22]
2015 <i>About</i>		Top 100 90s Pop Songs	#81	[23]

Commercial success

United States and Canada

"Tears in Heaven" is Clapton's best-selling single in the United States today. With more than 2,800,000 copies sold – both physical and digital – it remains one of the best-selling pop singles of the 1990s and one of the best-selling singles, released by any non-American artist. The Reprise Records single reached number two on the <u>Billboard Hot 100</u> singles charts, where it charted for 26 weeks. It was kept from the number one spot by "<u>Save the Best for Last</u>" by <u>Vanessa Williams</u>. It is also Clapton's highest charting single on the Hot 100, after "<u>I Shot the Sheriff</u>", which is Clapton's only Hot 100 number one single to date. While charting on Americas most important single chart, Clapton received several sales awards by the *Billboard* magazine, including a "Hot Shot

Debut" and a "Power Pick/Sales" certificate. [25] After the physical single release was certified with a Gold disc by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) on March 18, 1992, [26] the single was still selling about 150,000 copies every week. [25] On April 15, 1992, "Tears in Heaven" was a Platinum certification award for sales of more than 1,000,000 copies in the United States. [26] It topped the Top Single Sales chart, compiled by the Billboard magazine in 1992. [27] The release also topped Billboard magazines Adult Contemporary chart, on which "Tears in Heaven" charted for a total of 30 weeks, [28] and also became a number one single on the Top 100 Cashbox charts. [29] By the end of 1992, "Tears in Heaven" sold more than 2,300,000 copies in the United States alone. [30] The pop single also received a lot of airplay, charting 20 weeks on the Top Radio Songs chart, peaking at number three, [31] and reaching position nine on the Mainstream Rock Songs chart, where "Tears in Heaven" stayed for a total of 18 weeks. [32] Also, it was later the fourth-favourite recurrent airplay single, as the Billboard magazine reported in summer of 1992. [33] The 1992 single release was the 6th best-selling single recording in the United States that year, reachin number six on the Billboard year-end Hot 100 chart [34] as well as the 5th most successful Adult Contemporary release. It also ranked at number five on the Top Single Sales chart, compiled by the Billboard magazine and reached position 25 on the Top Radio Songs year-end chart in 1992. [35]

In <u>Canada</u>, the Reprise Records single release topped all of the three pop single sales chart in the country and is therefore Clapton's most successful single in Canada to date. The song reached the number one top position on both the Canadian Hot Adult Contemporary Tracks^[36] and Top 100 Singles chart, compiled by the <u>RPM</u> magazine. In addition to the already rare success, reaching number one on both of the charts, "Tears in Heaven" was also <u>The Record</u> magazines Top Retail selling single release. Shortly after the single was released in Canada and topped all of these three record charts, it was certified with a double Platinum sales certification for physical sales exceeding 200,000 copies. In 1992, "Tears in Heaven" was the 17th best-selling single on *RPM* magazines Hot Adult Contemporary Tracks chart.

Europe and Oceania

The pop single release was especially successful in Europe, reaching the Top 10 in 12 countries and the Top 20 in 15 of them. The single charted at number three on the European Hot 100 Singles chart in 1992, [41] and was Europes 21st best-selling single of 1992. [42] In Austria, the physical single peaked at number 25 on the Ö3 Austria Top 40 singles chart, and eventually charted at number ten in week four, reaching its highest charting position in the country. In total, the single of "Tears in Heaven" spent 12 weeks on the nations single sales chart. [43] It was eventually certified with a Gold disc by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) in Austria [41] and reached number 61 on the country's year-end chart in 1992. [44] In Flanders (Belgium), the hit single release reached three different single charts. In 1992, the recording peaked at position 44 on Ultratops Top 50 single chart, and eventually reached its peak position, 16, in week four and five, while on chart for a total of ten weeks. [45] At that time, the single also peaked at number ten on the Belgian VRT Top 30 singles chart, where "Tears in Heaven" spent eight weeks on chart. [46]

In 2010, when a remastered physical edition of the single was released in Belgium, it reached number 16 on the Back Catalogue chart. The song was Belgiums 159th best-selling single in 1992, and certified with a Platinum disc for sales over 50,000 copies by the Belgian Entertainment Association. In Denmark, Tears in Heaven topped the single sales chart and was certified Platinum for sales exceeding 10,000 copies by IFPI Denmark, as it spent a total of 29 weeks on chart. In France, the single peaked at number two on the French singles chart, where it charted for 34 weeks. On chart week 28, it was certified with a Platinum award by the Syndicat National de l'Édition Phonographique (SNEP) for sales of more than 500,000 copies in the country.

In <u>Germany</u>, the single placed itself on its lowest charting position, number 42. [50] In total, the single charted for eleven weeks on the German singles chart, [51] and sold more than 170,000 both digital and physical copies to date. [41] "Tears in Heaven" topped [52] the single charts in <u>Ireland</u> and was certified with a Platinum disc by the <u>Irish Recorded Music Association</u> (IRMA), selling more than 50,000 copies in 1992, as it reached both of the year-end charts in 1992 and 1993 with positions five and 47. [54] In <u>Italy</u>, the single reached Top five positions as both a physical as well as a digital download single. In 1992, the single peaked at number four on the Italian single chart, compiled by <u>Musica e dischi</u>. [55] Later, the single re-entered the nations single chart as a digital download and streaming single, reaching number five on the charts, now compiled by the <u>Federazione</u> Industria Musicale Italiana (FIMI).

In addition, the digital single was certified with a Platinum disc, for sales and streams exceeding 30,000 units. [41] The single was a medium successful hit in the Netherlands. It reached position 17 on the Dutch Top 40 singles weekly chart, where it stayed for ten weeks, [56] and reached number 131 on the charts year-end compilation in 1992. [57] In addition, it also reached the Single Top 100 charts, peaking at number 13 and staying for 21 weeks on chart, [58] before placing itself on position 87 on the year-end Single 100 chart. [59] In Norway, the single topped the VG-lista singles chart in 1992, [41] exactly like it did in Poland, reaching the top spot on the Lista Przebojów Programu Trzeciego (LP3), [60] where it stayed for 16 weeks. [42] In Spain, the single charted at number seven on the nations single charts, and was eventually certified with a Gold disc, commemorating the sale of more than 25,000 copies in the country by the Productores de Música de España (PROMUSICAE). [41] In Sweden, "Tears in Heaven" reached number four on the Sverigetopplistan singles chart, where it spent a total of 30 weeks on chart.

In October 1992, it was presented with a Platinum sales award by the Swedish Recording Industry Association (GLF), when it exceeded 50,000 sold units in the country. It reached number 86 on the 1992 Swedish year-end chart. In Switzerland, the single was also a Top ten hit, peaking at number seven on the Schweizer Hitparade, where "Tears in Heaven" stayed for 15 weeks. Here too, the single was presented with a Gold certification by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, for sales exceeding 25,000 copies in Switzerland. It was the 38th most-bought single in Switzerland in 1992. Heaven was also a major success for Clapton in his home country, the United Kingdom. The single reached number five on the charts, compiled by the Official Charts Company and spent a total of 14 weeks on the British charts, selling 140,000 copies in the first five weeks. Shortly after, the single was certified with a Silver disc by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI), for sales more than 200,000 copies in the country. With total sales of more than 300,000 copies by the end of 1992, Image in Heaven reached number 39 on Great Britains 1992 year-end chart.

In <u>Australia</u>, "Tears in Heaven" was a hit record, reaching number three on the <u>ARIA charts</u> in 1993, although the release did chart before at lower positions in Australia the previous year. In 1992, the pop Reprise Records single placed itself at number 102 on Australias year-end chart. [70] However, in 1993, it could generate far more single sales, become Australia's 28th best-selling single. [71] In 1993, the single release was also certified with a Platinum record sales certification by the <u>Australian Recording Industry Association</u> (ARIA) for sales figures exceeding 70,000 physical units. [72] In <u>New Zealand</u>, the single topped the country's single chart for the first five weeks on chart, and spent a total of 18 weeks on the country's single sales chart. [73] On May 31, 1992 – just

four weeks on chart in New Zealand – "Tears in Heaven" was certified with a Gold disc by the <u>Recording Industry Association of New Zealand</u> (RIANZ), commemorating the sale of more than 7,500 copies in the country. [74]

Asia and South America

In Asia, "Tears in Heaven" was mostly successful in Japan, Taiwan and Macao. In the island country in East Asia, the single release peaked at number two on the *Oricon* Japanese Hot 100 Singles sales chart in February 1992. [75] In total, the Reprise Records single stayed thirty-seven weeks on the nation's Hot 100 single sales chart, compiled by *Oricon*. [42] Because "Tears in Heaven" was not released as a maxi single or part of a double A-side by Reprise or Warner Bros. Records in Japan, it was not eligible to chart on any other compilations. While charting in Japan in 1992, the pop single release was certified with a triple Platinum disc by the Recording Industry Association of Japan (RIAJ), [76] for sales overstepping the 300,000 sales mark. By the end of 1992, "Tears in Heaven" sold more than 389,000 units in Japan, [77] however, not more than 400,000 copies, quelling the quelling four a quadruple Platinum certification award. $\frac{[76]}{}$ For the year-end closing of *Oricon*, it was revealed, the 1992 single release was the fortieth best-selling release on the Hot 100 Singles chart. [42] On the summary of 1992's most-purchased international singles in Japan, "Tears in Heaven" reached number sixtythree. [76] In Taiwan, the digital single of the song reached the G-Music charts in 2007, where the release stayed a total of seventeen weeks and topped the nation's singles chart three times. [78] During that year, the Recording Industry of Taiwan (RIT), awarded the single release with a Gold disc, for digital download sales exceeding more than 175,000 units in the country. [41] On Taiwan's year-end chart of 2007, "Tears in Heaven" ranked at position seventy-seven. [79] In the special administrative region of Macao, the single was certified with a Gold disc by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry of Macao for single sales of more than 15,000 physical copies. [80]

"Tears in Heaven" is Clapton's commercially most successful single release in South America to date, as it reached the single sales charts of three different countries. In <u>Argentina</u>, the Reprise Records release topped the country's single charts, compiled by the <u>Cámara Argentina</u> de <u>Productores de Fonogramas y Videogramas</u> (CAPIF). Also, the pop tune topped the singles chart in <u>Brazil</u>, and reached the 1992 year-end charts, placing itself on number fourteen. In <u>Brazil</u>, the single release was certified with a Platinum disc for physical sales of more than 250,000 copies. It is Clapton's highest-selling single in Brazil, as "Change the World" was certified with a Gold disc, and a rare certification for any physical single, as the worlds best-selling single "Candle in the Wind 1997" achieved similar sales figures. At last, "Tears in Heaven" peaked at number eight

on <u>Asociación Colombiana de Productores de Fonogramas</u> (ASINCOL)'s physical format singles chart in <u>Colombia</u>. It also reached number thirty-eight on the country's year-end chart of 1992, compiled by ASINCOL, and is Clapton's only charting single in the country. [83]

Chart positions

Weekly charts

Year-end charts

Chart (1992-2013)	Peak position
Argentina (CAPIF) ^[41]	1
Australia (ARIA) ^[70]	37
Austria (Ö3 Austria Top 40) ^[43]	10
Belgium (Back Catalogue Flanders) ^[45]	16
Belgium (Ultratop 50 Flanders) ^[45]	16
Belgium (VRT Top 30 Flanders) ^[46]	10
Brazil (ABPD) ^[81]	1
Canadian Adult Contemporary (<i>RPM</i>) ^[36]	1
Canadian Retail Singles (<i>The Record</i>)[38]	1
Canadian Top Singles (<i>RPM</i>) ^[37]	1
Colombia (ASINCOL) ^[83]	8
Denmark (<u>Tracklisten</u>) ^[48]	1
Europe (European Hot 100) ^[41]	3
France (SNEP) ^[49]	2
songid field is MANDATORY FOR GERMAN CHARTS	42
Iceland (IFPI) ^[84]	1
Ireland (IRMA) ^[52]	1
Italy (<u>FIMI</u>) ^[41]	5
Italy (Musica e dischi) ^[55]	4
Japan (<i>Oricon</i> Hot 100 Singles) ^[75]	2
Japan (<i>Oricon</i> International Singles) ^[76]	1
Netherlands (Dutch Top 40) ^[56]	17
Netherlands (Single Top 100) ^[58]	13
New Zealand (Recorded Music NZ)[73]	1
Norway (VG-lista) ^[41]	1

Chart (1992)	Position
Australia (ARIA) ^[70]	102
Austria (Ö3 Austria Top 40) ^[44]	61
Belgium (<u>Ultratop 50</u> Flanders) ^[42]	159
Brazil (ABPD) ^[42]	14
Canadian Adult Contemporary (<i>RPM</i>) ^[40]	17
Colombia (ASINCOL) ^[83]	38
Europe (European Hot 100) ^[42]	21
Ireland (IRMA) ^[53]	5
Japan (<i>Oricon</i> Hot 100 Singles) ^[42]	40
Japan (<i>Oricon</i> International Singles) ^[76]	63
Netherlands (Dutch Top 40) ^[57]	131
Netherlands (Single Top 100) ^[59]	87
New Zealand (Recorded Music NZ) ^[85]	6
Sweden (Sverigetopplistan) ^[62]	86
Switzerland (Schweizer Hitparade) ^[64]	38
UK Singles (Official Charts Company) ^[69]	39
US Adult Contemporary (Billboard)[35]	5
US Billboard Hot 100 ^[34]	6
US Radio Songs (Billboard)[35]	25
US Top Singles Sales (Billboard)[35]	5

Chart (1993)	Position
Australia (ARIA) ^[71]	28
Ireland (IRMA) ^[54]	47

Chart (2007)	Position
Taiwan (<u>G-Music</u>) ^[79]	77

Chart (1992–2013)	Peak position
Poland (<u>LP3</u>) ^[60]	1
Spain (AFYVE) ^[41]	7
Sweden (Sverigetopplistan) ^[61]	4
Switzerland (Schweizer Hitparade) ^[63]	7
Taiwan (<u>G</u> -Music) ^[78]	1
UK Singles (OCC) ^[65]	5
US Adult Contemporary (Billboard) ^[28]	1
US Billboard Hot 100 ^[24]	2
US <u>Cashbox</u> Top Singles ^[29]	1
US Mainstream Rock (Billboard)[32]	9
US Radio Songs (Billboard)[31]	3
US Recurrent Radio Songs (Billboard)[33]	4
US Top Singles Sales (Billboard)[27]	1

Chart successions

Certifications

Region	Certification	Certified units/sales
Australia (ARIA) ^[72]	Platinum	70,000 [^]
Austria (<u>IFPI</u> Austria) ^[41]	Gold	25,000 [*]
Belgium (BEA) ^[47]	Platinum	0*
Brazil (Pro-Música Brasil) ^[81]	Platinum	250,000 [*]
Canada (Music Canada) ^[39]	2× Platinum	200,000^
Denmark (IFPI Danmark) ^[48]	Platinum	8,000^
France (SNEP) ^[49]	Platinum	500,000 [*]
Germany	_	170,000 ^[41]
Ireland (IRMA) ^[53]	Platinum	50,000 [^]
Japan (RIAJ) ^[76]	3× Platinum	389,000 ^[77]
Macao (IFPI Macao) ^[80]	Gold	15,000 [*]
New Zealand (RMNZ) ^[74]	Gold	5,000 [*]
Spain (PROMUSICAE) ^[41]	Gold	25,000 [^]

Region	Certification	Certified units/sales	
Sweden (GLF) ^[61]	Platinum	50,000 [^]	
Switzerland (IFPI Switzerland)[41]	Gold	25,000 [^]	
United Kingdom (BPI) ^[67]	Silver	300,000 ^[68]	
United States (RIAA) ^[86]	Platinum	2,300,000 ^[30]	
Digital sales			
Italy (FIMI) ^[41]	Platinum	O [‡]	
Taiwan (<u>RIT</u>) ^[41]	Gold	175,000 ^x	
United Kingdom (BPI)[87]	Silver	200,000 [‡]	
United States (RIAA) ^[26]	Gold	500,000^	

^{*} Sales figures based on certification alone.

Other performances

In 2005, Ozzy Osbourne and Sharon Osbourne assembled an all-star cast to collaborate on "Tears in Heaven". Sales from the recording benefited the Disasters Emergency Committee's Tsunami Earthquake appeal and the tsunami victims in Southeast Asia. The line up included Gwen Stefani, Mary J. Blige, Pink, Slash, Duff "Rose" McKagan, Steven Tyler, Elton John, Phil Collins, Ringo Starr, Andrea Bocelli, Katie Melua, Josh Groban, Scott Weiland, Robbie Williams, and Rod Stewart. Ozzy Osbourne and Kelly Osbourne also sang on the song. Loona also recorded a version of the song.

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[^] Shipments figures based on certification alone.

[‡] Sales+streaming figures based on certification alone.

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