



Need You Now (Lady Antebellum song)



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"**Need You Now**" is a song performed by American country music trio Lady Antebellum. The band co-wrote the song with Josh Kear, and produced it with Paul Worley. It serves as the lead-off single and title track to their second studio album, *Need You Now* (2010), and was first released in the US on August 11, 2009.^{[1][2]} The song also served as their debut single in the UK and Europe, where it was released April 23, 2010. It won four Grammy Awards in 2011, including for Song of the Year and Record of the Year, the first country song to win both honors since "Not Ready to Make Nice" by the Dixie Chicks won both in 2006, and only the second ever to do so.

"Need You Now"

Song

The song spent five weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart in late 2009.^{[3][4]} Thereafter, "Need You Now" crossed over onto various pop and adult contemporary music charts, becoming a top five hit in Canada, Ireland, and New Zealand, as well as a top ten hit in the Netherlands and Norway. The song won Single of the Year and Song of the Year at the 2010 Academy of Country Music Awards,^[5] as well as Group Video of the Year at the 2010 CMT Music Awards.^[6] For the chart week of March 30, 2010, the song became the group's highest-charting single on the Billboard Hot 100, reaching No. 2,^[7] the best position for a country song by a band on that chart since Lonestar's "Amazed" topped the tally at the beginning of the decade.^[8] The single has been certified sextuple platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA).^[9]

A music video was shot for the song, directed by Dave McClister. In the video the song has an extended piano intro, and features all members of the group acting out scenes related to the storyline.^[10] The song was initially released only to the country radio format in the United States and Canada on August 24, 2009,^[1] but was remixed and re-released to all other formats domestically and internationally at the beginning of 2010. The song gained prominence internationally, in Europe and South America. The trio re-recorded the song again in Simlish to accompany the release of the Sims 3 expansion pack Ambitions.^[11] By April 17, 2011, the song became the ninth most downloaded song in history, moving 5,000,000 copies, and surpassed Taylor Swift's "Love Story" as the most downloaded country song in history.^{[12][13]} It has since sold over 6 million copies in the US.^[14]

The song was used in television series such as Helcats and The Glades. "Need You Now" has also been covered by several artists, including Adele with Darius Rucker, Boyce Avenue and Glee Cast. "Weird Al" Yankovic included the chorus in "Polka Face", the polka medley from his 2011 album Alpocalypse.

Content

The lyrics describe placing a call to someone in the middle of the night due to being lonely and longing for companionship. Hillary Scott commented on the song, saying that "All three of us know what it's like to get to that point where you feel lonely enough that you make a late night phone call that you very well could regret the next day." Charles Kelley told *The Boot* that the band's record executives initially had concerns regarding using the lyrics "*I'm a little drunk*", but convinced the executives to leave the content in the song.^[15]


Reception

"Need You Now" has received positive reviews from music critics. It won the 2011 Grammy award for Record of the Year and Song of the Year. The song received a "thumbs up" review from Jim Malec of the 9513. He said that although Charles Kelley's voice had a "surprisingly stuffy tone," lead singer Hillary Scott's voice fit perfectly for "dark" songs like "Need You Now." He said that both singers had a rawness in their voices that made the song feel "real".^[16] It also received a positive review from Ken Tucker of *Billboard*, who said, "the song finds alto Scott trading lead vocals with a soulful Kelley, and it will connect with anyone who's ever dumped a significant other and regretted it in the early morning hours."^[17] Bobby Peacock of Roughstock gave a positive review as well, comparing its sound favorably to that of "*I Run to You*." He also thought the traded-off lead vocals gave the song "more depth," and that Kelley and Scott sang more strongly than on the debut album.^[18]


Critics in Europe and North America have pointed to similarities between "Need You Now" and 1982's "*Eye in the Sky*" by The Alan Parsons Project.^{[19][20]} Hillary Scott responded saying that she "had never even heard of him".

Chart performance

The song became the trio's second No. 1 hit on the Hot Country Songs chart for the chart dated November 28, 2009,^[3] where it stayed for five weeks,^[4] making it the first song to hold the No. 1 position for more than four weeks since Taylor Swift's "*Our Song*" spent six weeks at No. 1 between December 2007 and January 2008.^[21] In the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart, the song peaked at No. 2 and stayed there for two weeks (kept from the top spot by a combination of "*Break Your Heart*" by Taio Cruz featuring Ludacris^[22] and "*Rude Boy*" by Rihanna^[23]) making it their highest charting single on that chart and their first top 5. On the Canadian Hot 100, it also peaked at No. 2, making it their highest charting and first top five single there as well. It is only the second country song to reach No. 1 on the *Billboard* Adult Top 40 chart, the first being Faith Hill's "*Breathe*", which reached the top position in 2000.^[24] For the *Billboard* tracking period of March 29–April 4, 2010, "Need You Now" broke the record held by Hoobastank's hit "*The Reason*" for most spins in one week on the Adult Top 40 chart.^[25] The song debuted at No. 28 on the UK Singles Chart in its first week of release. It was covered in a live performance for Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee Concert in June 2012 by English singers Gary Barlow and Cheryl Cole which saw the song re-enter the UK Charts.^[26] Over a month later it climbed to No. 15, its highest UK chart position and after 53 weeks in the chart.^[27]



"Need You Now" (2009)



0:28

A 27-second sample of Lady Antebellum's "Need You Now." The song is a country ballad.

Problems playing this file? See [media help](#).

On December 9, 2010, the song was named the No. 2 Hot 100 song of the year by *Billboard*, behind "Tik Tok" by Kesha, marking the highest position a country song has ever reached since Faith Hill's "Breathe" was ranked No. 1 in the year-end chart of the year 2000.^[28]

In April 2011, *Need You Now* replaced Taylor Swift's "Love Story" as the best-selling country song of all time in the U.S.^[29] It is also the second country song to sell over 5 million digital copies (after Swift's "Love Story").^[30] It has sold over 6 million copies by January 2013, the first country song to do so.^[14] As of June 2016, it had sold 6.7 million units in the U.S.^[31]

Due to the band winning four Grammys, "Need You Now" debuted at No. 32 on the German Singles Chart in February 2011, 10 months after the digital release of the single. Before that happened, the song did not sell enough to enter the chart.^{[32][33]}

Music video

David McClister directed the "Need You Now" music video, using a treatment he wrote in 10 minutes.^[34]

File:Need you now still.jpg

A still from the music video showing Hillary Scott singing while leaning out of a taxi.

The video features all three members of Lady Antebellum acting out scenes pertaining to the storyline. It begins in a hallway of a hotel where Kelley is sitting against a wall and Scott is in her room, with Haywood playing the piano.

Kelley goes to a cafe and has a coffee, where Haywood arrives with his love interest. Scott then leaves her room and hails a taxi. Kelley leaves the cafe and goes outside to walk to a costume ball, to which Scott is also traveling. When they arrive at the ball, they both see their love interests wearing masks and embrace them. Haywood soon arrives at the ball with his love interest. The video ends with all three members embracing their love interests.^[10] The video was filmed at the King Edward Hotel in Toronto, Ontario.^[35]

Of the changes between the song and its music video, one of the most noted is Kelley drinking coffee instead of whiskey, since the song states the character is intoxicated. In response, McClister admitted he simply did not want the video to be a literal adaptation of the song, as he felt sitting in a diner in the middle of the night was lonelier.^[34]

Cover versions and media usage

In December 2010, Adele and Darius Rucker performed the song at the CMT Artists of the Year.^{[36][37]} The song was featured in the 2012 film *Zero Dark Thirty*. The song is featured in the first episode of *Hellcats*,^[38] and it also appeared in episode 12 of *The Glades*. "Weird Al" Yankovic included the chorus in "Polka Face", the polka medley from his 2011 album *Alpocalypse*.

In 2017, Shane Filan of Westlife included this song on his album Love Always which reached Top 3 in Scottish Albums Chart and Top 5 in UK Albums Chart and Irish Albums Chart. This was released as a promotional single in East Asia with a new arrangement and a duet with a Filipina bossa nova music artist Sitti. The said single charted in iTunes Top Songs in Laos, Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia.^[39] A version

of the song by Filan with Indonesian pop star Anggun was released for the Asia Deluxe Edition of the *Love Always* album in July 2018. Another cover, by Johnny Gioeli and Deen Castronovo featuring Giorgia Colleluori was released in 2018.

Track listing

- **Digital download**

1. "Need You Now" – 3:57

- **Other versions**

- "Need You Now" (Jason Nevins Elektrotek Radio Edit) – 3:31

- "Need You Now" (Jason Nevins Hands Up Radio Edit) – 3:33

- "Need You Now" (Jason Nevins Rhythmic Radio Edit) – 3:29

- "Need You Now" (DJ Dark Intensity Remix) – 4:22

- **52nd Annual Grammy Awards**

- "Need You Now"

- **53rd Annual Grammy Awards**

- "If You Don't Know Me by Now/American Honey/Need You Now"

Credits and personnel

Adapted from the album liner notes.^[40]

- Chad Cromwell – drums
- Jason "Slim" Gambill – electric guitar
- Dave Haywood – background vocals, acoustic guitar
- Charles Kelley – lead vocals
- Rob McNelley – electric guitar (solo)
- Michael Rojas – piano, synthesizer
- Hillary Scott – lead vocals
- Paul Worley – acoustic guitar, electric guitar

- Craig Young – bass guitar

Awards and nominations

Year	Association	Category	Result
2010	<u>Academy of Country Music</u>	Single Record of the Year ^[5]	Won
		Song of the Year ^[5]	Won
		Video of the Year ^[41]	Nominated
	<u>CMT Music Awards</u>	Group Video of the Year ^[6]	Won
		Video of the Year ^[6]	Nominated
	<u>Teen Choice Awards</u>	Choice Music: Country Song ^[42]	Nominated
	<u>Country Music Association Awards</u>	Single of the Year ^[43]	Won
		Music Video of the Year ^[43]	Nominated
	<u>American Country Awards</u>	Single of the Year ^[44]	Won
		Single by a Duo/Group ^[44]	Won
		Music Video of the Year ^[44]	Nominated
		Video by Duo/Group ^[44]	Won
2011	<u>Grammy Awards</u>	Record of the Year ^[45]	Won
		Song of the Year ^[45]	Won
		Best Country Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals ^[45]	Won
		Best Country Song ^[45]	Won

Charts and certifications

Weekly charts

Chart (2009–12)	Peak position
Australia (<u>ARIA</u>) ^[46]	27
Austria (<u>Ö3 Austria Top 40</u>) ^[47]	18
Belgium (<u>Ultratop 50 Flanders</u>) ^[48]	13
Belgium (<u>Ultratop 50 Wallonia</u>) ^[49]	37
Brazil (<u>ABPD</u>) ^[50]	25
Brazil (<u>Billboard Brasil</u>) ^[51]	11
Canada (<u>Canadian Hot 100</u>) ^[52]	2

Year-end charts

Chart (2009)	Chart Position
US <u>Country Songs</u> (<u>Billboard</u>) ^[79]	48
Chart (2010)	Chart Position
Canada (<u>Canadian Hot 100</u>) ^[80]	9
Netherlands (<u>Mega Single Top 100</u>) ^[81]	18
New Zealand (<u>RMNZ</u>) ^[82]	48
Japan (<u>Japanese Top 100</u>) ^[83]	80

Chart (2009–12)	Peak position	Chart (2009)	Chart Position																								
Canada <u>AC</u> (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[53]	1	Sweden (Sverigetopplistan) ^[84]	49																								
Canada <u>CHR/Top 40</u> (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[54]	6	Switzerland (<u>Schweizer Hitparade</u>) ^[85]	50																								
Canada <u>Country</u> (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[55]	1	UK Singles (Official Charts Company) ^[86]	118																								
Canada <u>Hot AC</u> (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[56]	1	US <i>Billboard</i> Hot 100 ^[28]	2																								
Denmark (Tracklisten) ^[57]	17	US <u>Pop Songs</u> (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[87]	24																								
France (SNEP) ^[58]	56	US <u>Adult Pop Songs</u> (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[88]	3																								
Finland (Suomen virallinen lista) ^[59]	12	US <u>Adult Contemporary</u> (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[89]	1																								
songid field is MANDATORY FOR GERMAN CHARTS	32	US <u>Country Songs</u> (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[90]	48																								
Ireland (IRMA) ^[60]	3	Chart (2012)	Chart Position																								
Israel (Media Forest) ^[61]	1	UK Singles (Official Charts Company) ^[91]	94																								
Japan (Japan Hot 100) ^[62]	12	<div>Certifications</div> <table><tr><th>Region</th><th>Certification</th><th>Certified units/sales</th></tr><tr><td>Australia (ARIA)^[92]</td><td>3× Platinum</td><td>210,000[^]</td></tr><tr><td>Denmark (IFPI Danmark)^[93]</td><td>Gold</td><td>15,000[^]</td></tr><tr><td>New Zealand (RMNZ)^[94]</td><td>Platinum</td><td>15,000[*]</td></tr><tr><td>Sweden (GLF)^[95]</td><td>Platinum</td><td>40,000[‡]</td></tr><tr><td>United Kingdom (BPI)^[96]</td><td>Platinum</td><td>600,000[‡]</td></tr><tr><td>United States (RIAA)^[97]</td><td>9× Platinum</td><td>6,700,000^[31]</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">* Sales figures based on certification alone. ^ Shipments figures based on certification alone. ‡ Sales+streaming figures based on certification alone.</td></tr></table>		Region	Certification	Certified units/sales	Australia (ARIA) ^[92]	3× Platinum	210,000 [^]	Denmark (IFPI Danmark) ^[93]	Gold	15,000 [^]	New Zealand (RMNZ) ^[94]	Platinum	15,000 [*]	Sweden (GLF) ^[95]	Platinum	40,000 [‡]	United Kingdom (BPI) ^[96]	Platinum	600,000 [‡]	United States (RIAA) ^[97]	9× Platinum	6,700,000 ^[31]	* Sales figures based on certification alone. ^ Shipments figures based on certification alone. ‡ Sales+streaming figures based on certification alone.		
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Netherlands (Dutch Top 40) ^[63]	7																										
New Zealand (Recorded Music NZ) ^[64]	5																										
Norway (VG-lista) ^[65]	8																										
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US <u>Adult Contemporary</u> (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[73]	1																										
US <u>Adult Top 40</u> (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[74]	1																										
US <u>Hot Country Songs</u> (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[75]	1																										
US <u>Dance Club Songs</u> (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[76]	15																										
US <u>Dance/Mix Show Airplay</u> (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[77]	9																										
US <u>Mainstream Top 40</u> (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[78]	2																										

Release history

Country	Date	Format	Label	Ref.
United States ^[1]	August 11, 2009	Digital download	Capitol Nashville	[2]

	August 24, 2009	Country radio		[98]
	January 3, 2010	<u>Adult contemporary radio</u>	Capitol Nashville • <u>Capitol</u>	[99]
	January 24, 2010	<u>Hot adult contemporary radio</u>		[100]
Germany	April 23, 2010	Digital download	Capitol Nashville	[101]
Italy				[102]
United Kingdom	April 30, 2010		<u>Parlophone</u>	[103]
Canada	June 29, 2010	Digital download (<u>Jason Nevins</u> Dance Remix)	Capitol Nashville	[104]
United States				[105]

See also

- List of best-selling singles
- List of best-selling singles in the United States

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External links

- Lady Antebellum "Need You Now" music video (<http://www.cmt.com/videos/lady-antebellum/438918/need-you-now.jhtml#fbid=CyckXlyx2gS>) at *CMT.com*
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