

= I Will Be =

" I Will Be " is a song co @-@ written and originally performed by Canadian singer Avril Lavigne , which was included on the North American , Taiwanese , and Japanese limited editions of her third studio album The Best Damn Thing and as an iTunes Store pre @-@ order bonus track in 2007 ; British singer @-@ songwriter Leona Lewis covered the song for her debut studio album , Spirit , also released in 2007 . Max Martin and Lukasz Gottwald also co @-@ wrote the song , whilst production was helmed by Gottwald under his production name Dr. Luke . It was co @-@ produced by Steven Wolf and Max Beckley and Smit . It is a piano and guitar led song . It garnered a mixed response from music critics , with some critics praising Lewis 's vocal performance and delivery , whilst others described it as emotionless .

Upon the release of Spirit in November 2007 , the song peaked at number 160 on the UK Singles Chart due to strong digital download sales . It was released for US Contemporary hit radio airplay on 6 January 2009 . Throughout January to March 2009 , it also made an impact on the Canadian and United States charts ; in the former it peaked at number 83 , while it peaked at number 66 on the Billboard Hot 100 in the latter . However , it was more successful on the US Adult Pop Songs and Pop Songs charts , peaking at numbers 23 and 24 , respectively . As part of promotion , a music video was shot in New York City and featured Chace Crawford as Lewis 's love interest . In January 2009 , she performed the song on the Late Show with David Letterman .

= = Production and recording = =

" I Will Be " was written by Avril Lavigne , Max Martin , Lukasz " Dr. Luke " Gottwald ; it was produced by Dr. Luke , and was co @-@ produced by Steven Wolf and Max Beckley and Smit . Lavigne originally performed the song , which was included on her third studio album The Best Damn Thing (2007) , included on the bonus track edition . In the same year Leona Lewis covered the song . Lewis 's version was recorded at multiple recording studios around the world , including Conway Recording Studios and Westlake Recording Studios , in Los Angeles , California ; Henson Recording Studios , Opra Music , and Ocean Way Recording , all located in Hollywood , California ; Dr. Luke 's personal recording studio in New York City ; Atlantic Studios , Stockholm , Sweden ; Sarm West , London , England . The production coordinators were Gary " The Shredder " Silver and Emily Wright .

A multitude of engineers were involved with the process of recording the song , including Doug McKean , Rob Smith , Seth Waldmann , Keith Gretlin , Josh Wilbur , Tom Syrowski , Tatiana Gottwald , Chris Soper , Sam Holland , Chris Holmes , Rouble Kapoor , Wesley Seidman , Janne Hansson , Emily Wright , Marcus Dextegen and Sam Cross . " I Will Be " was mixed by Chris Lord @-@ Alge at Resonale Recording Studios , Burbank , CA , and was assisted by Keith Armstrong and Nik Karpen . For the instrumental , Leon Pendarvis was the conductor and arranger ; Martin provided piano , Dr. Luke provided the electric guitar and Yamaha Acoustic guitar , Jack Daley provided the bass and Wolf provided the drums and percussion .

= = Composition = =

" I Will Be " is a piano and guitar led song , which lasts for a duration of 3 minutes , 58 seconds . The song was composed in the key of G major using common time and a slow groove at 72 beats per minute . Lewis 's vocal range spans two octaves , from the low note of B3 to the high note of B5 , on the song . The song opens with the lyrics " There 's nothing I could say to you , nothing I could ever do to make you see what you mean to me . " Chad Grischow for IGN described the song 's piano led instrumental to be " overblown " , but noted that Lewis has enough " vocal strength to prevent her from being overshadowed by the drowningly lush sound . " Eric R. Danton wrote on his review of Spirit for the Hartford Courant daily that " I Will Be " begins with a " spare piano introduction " that " blossoms into an arrangement buoyed by strings and then drums and guitar " . Danton described Lewis 's vocals as " delicate " and that " take flight on the chorus " .

= = Response = =

= = = Critical reception = = =

It garnered a mixed response from music critics . Nate Chinen for The New York Times was complimentary of Lewis 's cover , and praised her " powerhouse vocals " . Matt O 'Leary for Virgin Media wrote that Lewis 's rendition of the song was " epic " , and that when the production is kept minimal , " her uniqueness is allowed to shine . " Although Sarah Rodman for The Boston Globe described the song as " predictable " , she praised Lewis 's ability to sing with " believable pathos " and hit clean notes . Sarah @-@ Louise James for the Daily Star was critical of Lewis 's rendition , and described it as insincerely emotional . Sal Cinquemani for Slant Magazine was also critical of the song , writing that it is " dangerously middle @-@ of @-@ the @-@ road . " Danton from the Hartford Courant considered the song as " ready @-@ made for awards shows or emotional on @-@ screen montages . " He concluded that " I Will Be " is a " powerful stuff , and it would make for a gem of a pop record if it kept up . "

= = = Chart performance = = =

Upon the release of Spirit in the United Kingdom , " I Will Be " debuted and peaked at number 160 on the UK Singles Chart from digital download sales . Upon its release as a single in January 2009 in the United States , " I Will Be " debuted on the US Pop Songs chart at number 34 on 31 January 2009 . In its second week it rose to number 31 , and again to number 28 in its third week . It peaked at number 24 and remained on the chart for eight weeks . In its seventh and eighth weeks , it charted at numbers 25 and 31 , respectively . It debuted on the US Billboard Hot 100 at number 94 on 14 February 2009 . It peaked at number 66 , and exited the chart at number 80 . The song debuted on the US Adult Pop Songs chart at number 39 on 7 March 2009 , and rose to number 34 the following week . In its third and fourth weeks , the song charted at numbers 33 and 25 , respectively . " I Will Be " peaked at number 23 in its fifth week on the chart , and fell to number 24 the following week . It also debuted at number 65 on the US Hot Digital Songs chart on 21 February 2009 , which was also its peak . In Canada , the song entered the chart at number 86 , and peaked at number 83 .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " I Will Be " was shot in New York City on 18 December 2008 , and features Gossip Girl actor Chace Crawford as one of the characters . A reporter for People explained how the inclusion of Crawford in the video came to fruition , writing that " Chace went to London a couple months ago for meetings and to promote Gossip Girl . He went to a party and ended up meeting Leona . [They] hit it off and talk every once in a while and have become fast friends . A couple weeks ago Leona called Chace and asked if he would be in her next video . He obviously said yes . " In the video , it is presumed that Lewis and Crawford have stolen a large amount of money , as it opens with dialogue between the pair and how they are going to try and arrange to meet each other at a later date , due to the police closing in on them . As the song begins to play , Lewis sings the first verse on the car bonnet in which they were shown sitting in previously . As she sings the first chorus , she stands up and faces Crawford in the car , and begins to walk away in a car park as she sings the second verse . For the second chorus , Lewis is shown to evade the police by trying to escape by car park stairways , but is confronted by policemen in most directions she goes . For the final chorus , Lewis makes it out onto the road and runs from the police in their cars , but is ultimately blocked from escape in all directions as they close in on her , arrest her , and place her in the back of a police car . People ranked the video as one of the most anticipated videos to be released in January 2009 .

= = Live performances = =

On 20 January 2009 , Lewis ' performed the song on the Late Show with David Letterman to promote its release as a single . Complimentary of her performance , Letterman said " Beautiful ! Oh my God that was lovely " after Lewis finished the song . Lizzie Smith for The Guardian wrote that her performance was the " latest step towards her domination of the American music scene . " She also commented on the interaction between Lewis and Letterman after her performance , writing " It 's rare for American chatshow host David Letterman to do more than shake the hands of performers on his U.S. show , but when X Factor winner Leona Lewis made an appearance he could hardly keep his hands off her . Hugging Leona , a smitten Letterman caught her by surprise by asking : ' Anything you want to talk about ? ' As Leona looked bemused Letterman cheekily added : ' Let 's go up to the house and we 'll talk about it . ' " Smith concluded her review of the performance with " But rather than looking pleased with his attentions a blushing Leona looked distinctly uncomfortable . "

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording

Recorded at Conway Recording Studios , Los Angeles , CA ; Henson Recording Studios , Hollywood , CA ; Dr. Luke 's , NYC ; Opra Music , Hollywood CA ; Ocean Way Recording , Hollywood , CA ; Westlake Recording Studios , Los Angeles , CA ; Atlantic Studios , Stockholm , Sweden ; Sarm West , London , England .

Mixed at Resonale Studios , Burbank , CA .

Personnel

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Spirit , Syco Music , J Records , Sony Music .

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =