

= I 've Got Nothing =

" I 've Got Nothing " is a song released by the participants of the BBC Two documentary series Chartjackers and is credited as such . The track was produced by university student Marc Dowding and its music video was filmed by YouTube user Charlie McDonnell . It was released by the record label Swinging Mantis on 9 November 2009 exclusively through the iTunes Store . The single and its release were the end product of a ten @-@ week campaign documented on Chartjackers , which challenged the global online community to write , record and release a pop song that would make number one on the UK Singles Chart . The song was written entirely through crowdsourcing , with its every aspect , such as the title , lyrics , melody and singers , having been solicited from YouTube users .

" I 've Got Nothing " was a charity single released to benefit the UK charity Children in Need . It was sung by vocalists Miranda Chartrand and Adam Nichols , both on the record and at live performances . Its music video featured shots of Chartrand and Nichols singing in a London park with Children in Need mascot Pudsey Bear , as well as video clips submitted by Chartjackers viewers of themselves miming to the track . The song was generally ignored by music critics and received mostly negative reviews ? it went on to sell a total of 20 @,@ 000 copies worldwide and earned a chart position of Number 36 in the UK Singles Chart .

= = Background and writing = =

" I 've Got Nothing " was written in ten weeks entirely through crowdsourcing as part of a project that was documented on the BBC Two series Chartjackers . Members of the online community were asked to submit various song ideas on the YouTube channel " ChartJackersProject " , with the aim that a single could be written , recorded and then released on 9 November 2009 .

The lyrics for " I 've Got Nothing " were written on the week of 8 September . A video posted to the YouTube channel " ChartJackersProject " invited viewers to submit possible lines as comments . Viewers posted more than 4 @,@ 000 comments , from which the song 's lyrics were selected . The following week , another video was uploaded to " ChartJackersProject " that published the winning lyrics and announced that the song 's title was to be " I 've Got Nothing " ? the song 's chorus had been written by YouTube user " blakeisno1 " . The video also invited viewers to compose a melody for the completed lyrics . Viewers submitted 51 melodies as video responses , with the entry from Jonny Dark , a 19 @-@ year @-@ old musician from London , being selected as the winner .

A new YouTube video was uploaded to " ChartJackersProject " on 25 September , offering viewers the opportunity to audition to sing " I 've Got Nothing " on the final release . Hundred of viewers auditioned , with ten being selected to go through as finalists . These ten finalists auditioned in person at the Wellfield Working Men 's Club in Rochdale , where Miranda Chartrand , a 19 @-@ year @-@ old au pair from Stroud , Gloucestershire , and Adam Nichols , an 18 @-@ year @-@ old musician from Essex , were chosen to perform " I 've Got Nothing " on the single .

= = Recording and release = =

" I 've Got Nothing " was produced and co @-@ written by university student Marc Dowding . Dowding learnt about the opportunity through a video posted to the YouTube channel " ChartJackersProject " and was offered the job after e @-@ mailing his CV to a BBC Switch producer . Chartrand and Nichols travelled to Newport , South Wales on 7 October to record the single at the recording studio of the University of Wales , Newport . On producing the single , Dowding remarked : " It was a great help to be able to use the recording studios at the University . "

" I 've Got Nothing " was leaked to the internet during October 2009 , before being officially released a month later by record label Swinging Mantis . As Swinging Mantis was a small record label , the budget for " I 've Got Nothing " was limited , so a physical version of the single was never made available . Instead , the track was made sold exclusively as an iTunes digital download . " I 've Got Nothing " was released worldwide through the iTunes Store at midnight on 9 November . Each copy

was sold for £ 0 @. @ 79 in the United Kingdom and \$ 0 @. @ 99 in the United States .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

" I 've Got Nothing " was largely ignored by the mainstream media and did not receive many reviews ? the reviews that it did receive from critics were generally negative . British music website Popjustice called the effort " very bad " , and Ellie Halfacre of Tower Review explained that " some commented that the melody was bad , and others said it was the lyrics " . Halfacre also questioned whether the project was about self @-@ promotion or charity . David Balls of Digital Spy gave the single three stars out of five , predicting that it was " unlikely to make much of a top 40 impact " . James Masterton of Yahoo ! Music felt that the song had " fallen a long way short of " the goal of reaching number one because it had not been able to " guarantee mass public support " . Record producer Mike Stock said that the song had " no killer melody " and singer VV Brown suggested that " the lyrics could be better " .

= = = Commercial performance = = =

Expectations for the release of " I 've Got Nothing " were high . The main goal of Chartjackers had been for the song to reach number one on the UK Singles Chart , with the synopsis of the first episode expecting it to " sell an estimated 25 @, @ 000 singles " . The single sold almost 20 @, @ 000 copies worldwide and raised £ 10 @, @ 000 for the charity Children in Need . Just under 8 @, @ 400 copies were downloaded in the UK , which gave " I 've Got Nothing " a chart placing of Number 36 in the UK Singles Chart . The following week the single fell out of the UK Top 100 .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " I 've Got Nothing " was edited by YouTube user Charlie McDonnell . It shows various " ChartJackersProject " viewers miming to the song , interspersed with shots of Chartrand and Nichols singing " I 've Got Nothing " in a park . The video was created through crowdsourcing , in a manner similar to the writing of the song itself . On 8 October 2009 , viewers were invited via " ChartJackersProject " to film and submit video clips of themselves either singing or clapping along with the track . Shots of Chartrand and Nichols with an actor dressed as Children in Need mascot Pudsey Bear were filmed in a park . This footage was compiled with some of the clips submitted by viewers and used to construct the final music video , which was shown nationwide on British music channels such as 4Music and Viva .

Many viewers submitted clips that were literal interpretations of the lyrics . For example , some viewers held up medals and trophies for the lyric " won the greatest prize " , others zoomed @-@ in on their own eye during the line " look into my eyes " and others turned off lights for the lyric " the lights are going out " . Most of the shots of Chartrand and Nichols are of them singing " I 've Got Nothing " in a park with an actor dressed as Pudsey Bear , but the video also features shots of them eating ice cream , swinging around a lamp post and dancing in front of a tree . The video begins with shots of the duo throwing a football back and forth to each other . At 2 : 03 , the video splits into 35 equally sized smaller rectangles , each containing a clip of a " ChartJackersProject " viewer clapping in time with " I 've Got Nothing " . Over the next 18 seconds of the song , 11 different sets of 35 viewers (i.e. approximately 385 viewers in total) are shown clapping along with the song . The video also features a cameo from YouTube user Peter Oakley at 0 : 06 .

= = Live performances = =

" I 've Got Nothing " was first performed live by Chartrand and Nichols on 4 November 2009 at 93

Feet East in London . Their performance was shown during the ninth episode of Chartjackers . The gig also featured performances from other YouTube users and was headlined by former pop star Chesney Hawkes . The song was performed live for a second time four days later at Switch Live 2009 , an awards show organised by BBC Switch at the HMV Hammersmith Apollo ? the event was opened by a performance of " I 've Got Nothing " .

= = Track listing = =

= = Charts = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Miranda Chartrand ? vocals

Adam Nichols ? vocals

Jonny Dark ? writer (melody)

Marc Dowding ? writer , producer , engineer and mixer