

= I Am Tour ( Leona Lewis ) =

The I Am Tour was the third headlining concert tour by the British singer and songwriter Leona Lewis . It was launched in support of her fifth studio album , I Am ( 2015 ) . The tour was announced on 11 September 2015 with a run of fourteen dates across Great Britain . It began on 21 February 2016 at the Liverpool Empire Theatre and concluded on 11 March 2016 at the Plymouth Pavilions . The leg also included two nights at the London Palladium . The English singer @-@ songwriter Philippa Hanna served as the support act , and the English singer @-@ songwriter Joss Stone joined Lewis on stage as a special guest for the final show of the tour to perform a cover of " Sisters Are Doin ' It for Themselves " by Eurythmics and Aretha Franklin .

Lewis performed a nineteen @-@ song set list with a four @-@ piece band and two backup vocalists . Her vocals , stage presence and interaction with the crowds was lauded by the critics in attendance . Many singled out her performance of " Ave Maria " as the set 's highlight , while others also praised renditions of " The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face " , " A Moment Like This " and " Run " . Several noted that nearly a third of the set list consisted of both official covers recorded by Lewis previously included on her albums , as well as cover songs intended just for the tour . Some were complimentary of the unofficial covers , most notably Lewis ' version of " Time After Time " by Cyndi Lauper , whereas others felt that there were too many and that they were too forgettable .

= = Background = =

To promote her fifth studio album , I Am ( 2015 ) , on 11 September 2015 Leona Lewis announced her third headlining concert tour , titled the I Am Tour , was to take place in February and March 2016 . It was her first concert tour since the Glassheart Tour in 2013 . Spanning fourteen shows visiting various concert halls and theatres in England , Scotland and Wales , the tour began at the Liverpool Empire Theatre on 21 February and concluded at the Plymouth Pavilions on 11 March ; it also included two dates at the London Palladium . Lewis announced the tour on 11 September 2015 and tickets went on sale a week later on 18 September . Speaking about touring again , Lewis said that she was " So so excited to announce a 2016 UK Tour ! I cannot wait to get out and perform all the new songs for you and some old favourites too ! " In an interview for What 's On magazine in December 2015 , Lewis revealed that she had originally planned for the tour to be longer , but decided to shorten it in order to spend time with family and friends and start writing songs for her sixth studio album sooner .

= = Critical reception = =

Katie Fitzpatrick of the Manchester Evening News reported that fans in attendance at the Manchester Bridgewater Hall show were impressed with Lewis ' performance , writing that many took to social media following the concert to describe her as " the best singer in the world " . Reporting on the show at The Sage Gateshead , the Chronicle Live critic Gordon Barr praised Lewis ' confidence and her band . He noted that the production was relatively simple compared to the big @-@ budget production values of her first concert tour in 2010 , The Labyrinth . With the tour featuring just two background vocalists and a four @-@ piece band , Barr wrote that it was " so refreshing to see an artist on stage just loving the music " . He singled out performances of " Ave Maria " , " Run " , and a cover of " Time After Time " by Cyndi Lauper as the show 's highlights . Barr described the performance of " Time After Time " as " stripped back to the core " which enabled the crowd to " really [ hear ] that incredible voice at its best " . Allan Jones of the Bournemouth Echo was also complimentary of Lewis ' performance during the show at the Bournemouth International Centre . Although he disapproved of the performance of " Ave Maria " ( but noted that it garnered a standing ovation from the crowd ) , he thought that standout performances included " Run " , " Bleeding Love " , and Lewis ' cover of " The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face " by Roberta Flack . He concluded his review by writing that Lewis has " that really big soul / pop voice that should see her continuing to pack venues for the next ten years " .

Adrian Caffery of the Birmingham Mail gave a mixed review of the show at the city 's Symphony Hall . While he was complimentary of Lewis ' vocals performances on most of the original tracks , most notably on " Ave Maria " , which he described as demonstrating " an amazing transformation to opera diva " , he was critical of Lewis ' decision to include seven cover songs on the set list . Although Caffery wrote that " Run " , " The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face " , " Ave Maria " , and " A Moment Like This " ? the last of which he described as " cheesy " ? were to be expected , as Lewis had recorded them for previous albums . However , he disapproved of " Time After Time " , labelling it " ok " , and called the Sam Smith covers " instantly forgettable " . He concluded by writing : " There was enough evidence to suggest Leona is capable of staging an utterly mesmerising show from start to finish ? just not this time " . A critic from The Bristol Post wrote that Lewis " dazzled " the audience who " [ enjoyed ] Leona 's impressive vocals and stunning songs " , placing emphasis on her rendition of " Time After Time " .

In a review of Lewis ' performance at the London Palladium on 5 March , William J Connolly of Gay Times praised the singer 's openness regarding her personal and private life throughout the show , which gave the audience an insight as to " why she 's remained quiet in previous months and why , as we all love , each album is full of emotion and honesty " . He singled out " The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face " , " Bleeding Love " , and " Thunder " as the show 's highlights , and described " Run " as " perfect " . Emma Noye of the Ipswich Star wrote that despite there being some Americanisms in the show , such as " horse @-@ riding , beach @-@ walking backing visuals with a voiceover talking about the ' journey ' she 's been on " , Lewis ' voice was " indisputably fantastic " . Noye went on to write that the singer " made everyone feel included and engaged " and praised her performance of " Ave Maria " as " stunning " .

In her review of the concert at the Plymouth Pavilions , Caroline Abbott of the Torquay Herald Express praised Lewis for her interaction with the crowd and her " down @-@ to @-@ earth " persona , as well as her performances of " Ave Maria " , " Thank You " , and " Sisters Are Doin ' It for Themselves " , a duet with the special guest Joss Stone . Noting that a third of the set @-@ list was made up of covers , she expressed dislike for Lewis ' interpretation of " Time After Time " . Abbott wrote that her " only real criticism " of the performance was for the stage production , which she described as " five strips of giant toilet paper hanging at the back , occasionally changing colour , and spaced a little too far apart to make for easy viewing of the video footage of Leona explaining why her music is so important to her " . Abbott did , however , note that the backdrop did not detract from the " high quality music " or her " incredible , effortless voice " .

= = Set list = =

The following set list is representative of the show in Liverpool at the Liverpool Empire Theatre on 21 February 2016 . It may not represent the setlist from all of the shows .

For the final show at the Plymouth Pavilions on 11 March , Lewis bought out the English singer @-@ songwriter Joss Stone as a special guest to perform a cover of " Sisters Are Doin ' It for Themselves " by Eurythmics and Aretha Franklin .

= = Shows = =