

= Butterfly Fly Away =

" Butterfly Fly Away " is an acoustic pop duet performed by American actors and recording artists Miley Cyrus and Billy Ray Cyrus . The song was first heard in the 2009 film *Hannah Montana : The Movie* , in which both Cyruses star , and was subsequently released on the film 's soundtrack . An extended version is featured on Billy Ray 's eleventh studio album , *Back to Tennessee* . The song is a soft country ballad with lyrics that describe a child 's transition to adulthood .

The song received generally favorable reviews and , though not released as a single , achieved notable commercial outcomes in Australia , Canada , Ireland , the United Kingdom , and the United States . It reached its highest international peak in the Irish Singles Chart , at number forty @-@ six . The Cyruses performed the song live at several venues ; a performance in an English Apple Store was recorded and eventually released on an extended play .

= = Background = =

As with Miley and Ray Cyrus 's last duet , " Ready , Set , Don 't Go " ( 2007 ) , " Butterfly Fly Away " describes a child 's transition to adulthood . The song was written and produced by Glen Ballard and Alan Silvestri for the 2009 film *Hannah Montana : The Movie* . According to the film , when main character Miley Stewart ( played by Miley Cyrus ) was young , her father Robby Ray Stewart ( played by Billy Ray Cyrus ) , would often tell her that while a caterpillar may not be able to move much , it can still dream about the butterfly it will one day be . This comment became a recurring motif in the film and provided the basis for the lyrics to " Butterfly Fly Away " , which use a caterpillar 's metamorphosis as a metaphor for a child 's coming of age . In *Hannah Montana : The Movie* , the Cyruses perform the song as their characters in " a tender movie scene under a gazebo in the rain " . Billy Ray said filming the scene was " a pretty special moment . The song itself was written by Glen Ballard , a masterful songwriter who wrote ' Man in the Mirror ' for Michael Jackson . I knew it was a pretty special song [ ... ] and it certainly comes at a nice spot in the movie . "

The contemporary country duet is set in common time with a gentle tempo of 69 beats per minute . The song 's vocals range one octave , from C ? 3 to B4 . The song is written in a key of B major and features the chord progression , Esus2 ? B ? C ? 7 .

= = Critical reception = =

Reviewers gave the song moderately positive reviews . Warren Truit of About.com found it " sentimental " while Scott Mervis of the *Pittsburgh Post @-@ Gazette* called it " a sweet duet " . Allmusic reviewer Heather Phares said the song was " a treacly duet " . Stephen Thomas Erlewine , also of Allmusic , was more negative , calling it a " syrupy , icky " song on which Billy Ray never sounds quite right . Leah Greenblatt of *Entertainment Weekly* wrote , " [ Miley 's ] delicate duet with dad Billy Ray , ' Butterfly Fly Away , ' is quietly lovely . " Billboard reviewer Ken Tucker stated that it " is an airy and flowing song about family on which father and daughter 's voices blend nicely " . Michael Rechtshaffen of *The Hollywood Reporter* called " Butterfly Fly Away " a " tender Glen Ballard / Alan Silvestri ballad " . The song was included on the short list for Best Original Song at the 82nd Academy Awards , but did not achieve a nomination .

= = Chart performance = =

" Butterfly Fly Away " debuted at number seventy @-@ two on the Billboard Hot 100 the week ending April 25 , 2009 . The following week , May 2 , 2009 , the song reached its peak on the Hot 100 at number fifty @-@ six . The song spent a total of three consecutive weeks on the chart . On the week ending April 25 , 2009 , " Butterfly Fly Away " debuted at number seventy @-@ six in the Canadian Hot 100 . The following week the song reached its peak at number @-@ fifty on the chart . The song charted for a longer amount of time in Canada than its home country , with four weeks on the chart .

The song encountered similar commercial outcomes in various nations . In the United Kingdom , the song debuted and peaked at number seventy @-@ eight for the week ending May 16 , 2009 . " Butterfly Fly Away " reached its highest international peak in the Irish Singles Chart . It debuted at number forty @-@ seven on the week ending May 7 , 2009 . The song ultimately peaked at number forty @-@ six on the chart . It also peaked at number fifty @-@ six in the Australian Singles Chart .

= = Live performances = =

The Cyruses performed the song on Good Morning America on April 8 , 2009 , along with performances of " Full Circle " , " Hoedown Throwdown " and " The Climb " . They included the song in their set for the AOL Sessions , recorded on April 13 , 2009 . They also performed the song in London in an Apple Store , along with a duet version of Billy Ray 's " Thrillbilly " and several of their own singles . The set , along with some songs by Cyrus 's father , was sold exclusively by the United Kingdom iTunes Store as an extended play titled iTunes Live from London .

= = Charts = =