

= Holiday ( Madonna song ) =

" Holiday " is a song by American singer Madonna from her eponymous debut studio album Madonna ( 1983 ) . Sire Records released it as the album 's third single on September 7 , 1983 . " Holiday " later appeared remixed on the remix compilation You Can Dance ( 1987 ) and the greatest hits compilation The Immaculate Collection ( 1990 ) , and in its original form on the greatest hits album Celebration ( 2009 ) . Written by Curtis Hudson and Lisa Stevens of Pure Energy , the track was offered to Madonna by her producer John " Jellybean " Benitez when she was looking for a potential hit track to include in her debut album . After accepting the song , she and Jellybean worked on it and altered its composition by the addition of a piano solo performed by their friend , Fred Zarr .

" Holiday " features instrumentation from guitars , electronic handclaps , a cowbell , and a synthesized string arrangement , while its lyrics speak about the universal sentiment of taking a holiday . Universally acclaimed by critics , the song became Madonna 's first mainstream hit single in the United States , reaching the top 20 of the Billboard Hot 100 . It also became her first top @-@ ten single in several countries , including Australia , Belgium , Germany , Ireland , the Netherlands and the United Kingdom . Madonna has performed " Holiday " on most of her tours and it is generally included as a part of the encore . Different performances of the song are included in the recorded releases of her tours . Cover versions by a number of artists have been released , and it has also appeared in the soundtrack of sitcoms like Will & Grace .

= = Background = =

In 1983 , Madonna was recording her eponymous debut album with Warner Bros. Records producer Reggie Lucas , after Sire Records green @-@ lit it when her first single " Everybody " became a club hit . However , she did not have enough material for the album . Lucas brought two new songs to the project and John " Jellybean " Benitez , a DJ at Funhouse disco was called to remix the available tracks . In the meantime , due to conflict of interest , Madonna 's collaborator on " Everybody " , Steve Bray had sold another song " Ain 't No Big Deal " to an act on another label , rendering it unavailable for Madonna 's project . It was Benitez who discovered a new song written by Curtis Hudson and Lisa Stevens of the pop group Pure Energy . The song , titled " Holiday " , had been turned down by Phyllis Hyman and Mary Wilson , formerly of The Supremes . Jellybean and Madonna sent the demo to their friend , Fred Zarr so he could embellish the arrangement and program the song with his synthesizer magic . After the vocals were added by Madonna , Benitez spent four days and tried to enhance the commercial appeal of the track before the April 1983 deadline . Just before it was completed , Madonna and Benitez met Fred Zarr at Sigma Sound in Manhattan where Zarr added the now familiar piano solo towards the end of the track .

Initially it was decided that " Lucky Star " would be released as a single ; instead " Holiday " was released in the U.S. when the latter became a dance hit . The original British cover art for " Holiday " did not carry Madonna 's picture since Sire did not want the British people to find out that she was not a R & B artist . Instead it carried the picture of a train station and an engine . " Holiday " was later remixed in dub and groove versions for the 1987 remix album You Can Dance It also appeared in her first greatest hits compilation , The Immaculate Collection , in a remixed and shortened form . During a 2005 interview with CBS News , Madonna said that " Holiday " was her favourite among all her songs .

In the United Kingdom , " Holiday " has been released three times as a single ; in January 1984 , reaching number six , re @-@ issued in August 1985 reaching number 2 ( only being kept from number one by her own " Into the Groove " single ) . It was re @-@ released with new artwork in 1991 to promote The Immaculate Collection with a limited edition EP titled The Holiday Collection , which contained tracks omitted from the compilation ; this version reached number five . Although the song was released to promote the greatest hits collection , it did not include the shorter remix from the album , instead it included the original album version from Madonna ( 1983 ) . The photography used for the 1991 release was by Steven Meisel and had previously been used for the

February 1991 cover for Vogue Italia .

= = Composition = =

Musically , " Holiday " is set in the time signature of common time with a medium tempo of 116 beats per minute . The song is composed in the key of D major and is six minutes seven seconds in length . Madonna 's vocal range spans from B3 to C ? 5 . The song follows in the chord progression of G ? A ? A ? Bm in the first line , when Madonna sings " Holiday ! " and changes to G ? A ? F ? m ? G in the second line , when Madonna sings " Celebrate ! " . The four bar sequence of the progression continues and features instrumentation from guitars , electronic handclaps , cowbell played by Madonna , and a synthesized string arrangement . A side @-@ by @-@ side repetitive progression is achieved by making use of the chorus . Towards the end of the song , a change in the arrangement happens , where a piano break is heard . Lyrically the song expresses the universal sentiment ? that everybody needs a holiday .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

Author Rikky Rooksby in his book The Complete Guide to the Music of Madonna commented that " ' Holiday ' was as infectious as the plague . One listen and you could not get the damn hook out of your mind . " Jim Farber of Entertainment Weekly commented that " Holiday " satisfied the musical ear of both the sides of the Atlantic . While reviewing The Immaculate Collection album , David Browne from Entertainment Weekly commented that " Holiday " was a " spunky dance @-@ beat trifle " . He also complimented the song 's expert production .

Mary Cross in her biography of Madonna , described " Holiday " as " a simple song with a fresh appeal and a good mood . " Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine described the song as airy . Stephen Thomas Erlewine from Allmusic called it effervescent and one of the great songs of the Madonna album . While reviewing The Immaculate Collection , he called it one of her greatest hits . Don Shewey of Rolling Stone commented that the simple lyrics of the song sound clever .

= = = Chart performance = = =

" Holiday " was released on September 7 , 1983 , and became Madonna 's first hit single and remained on the charts from the timespan of Thanksgiving to Christmas in 1983 . It was Madonna 's first song to enter the Billboard Hot 100 , at 88 on the issue dated October 29 , 1983 @.@ and reached a peak of 16 on January 28 , 1984 and was on the chart for 21 weeks . The song debuted at eight on the Hot Dance Club Play chart on the issue dated November 2 , 1983 and was Madonna 's first number one single on the Hot Dance Club Play chart remaining at the top for five weeks . It was released with " Lucky Star " as a double @-@ A side single . The song also made an entry in the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart and peaked at 25 , remaining on the chart for 20 weeks . In Canada , the song debuted at number 48 position of the RPM singles chart on January 21 , 1984 and peaked at number 39 . The song again entered the chart at number 45 in March 1984 , and peaked at number 32 on April 1984 . It was present on the chart for a total of 12 weeks .

In the United Kingdom , " Holiday " was released in 1984 whence it charted and reached a peak of six on the chart . However , a re @-@ release in 1985 with " Think of Me " on the B @-@ side , saw the song enter the charts at number 32 and reached a new peak of two on the chart , being held off the number one spot by Madonna 's own " Into the Groove " , while being present for ten weeks . Another re @-@ release in 1991 saw the song reach a peak of five on the chart . The song was certified gold by the British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) in August 1985 , and according to the Official Charts Company , " Holiday " has sold 709 @,@ 400 copies there . Across Europe , the song reached the top ten of Belgium , Netherlands , Germany and Ireland while reaching the top 40

in France , Italy , Sweden and Switzerland . It also made the top five in Australia . The song debuted at number 37 on the New Zealand Singles Chart , making it Madonna 's debut chart appearance in the country . It peaked at number seven .

= = Live performances = =

Madonna has performed " Holiday " on almost all of her tours , namely The Virgin Tour , Who 's That Girl , Blond Ambition , The Girlie Show , Drowned World , Re @-@ Invention , Sticky & Sweet Tour and Rebel Heart Tour . In 1984 , Madonna performed Holiday on the hit dance show American Bandstand with Dick Clark . Madonna then added it to the set list of her 1985 Virgin Tour . It was performed as the second song of the tour . The same year she performed the song at the Live Aid benefit concert in Philadelphia in July .

The Who 's That Girl World Tour in 1987 had Madonna performing " Holiday " as the last song of the tour . Madonna performed an energetic version of the song , signalling the celebratory and wholesome nature of the song 's theme . She sang the final chorus twice , and on some dates asked the audience for a comb so that she could fix her hair and finished the performance . Two different performances are found in Ciao Italia : Live from Italy tour video filmed at Stadio Comunale in Turin , Italy on September 4 , 1987 and the Who 's That Girl : Live in Japan tour video filmed at Korakuen Stadium in Tokyo , Japan on June 22 , 1987 .

For the Blond Ambition World Tour in 1990 , Madonna said , " I wanted to throw an old song for fun , and ' Holiday ' seemed to be a universal favourite . In addition to that it 's one of the only old songs I 've done that I can still sing and not feel I 've totally outgrown it . " Performing it as a part of the encore , Madonna appeared on the stage in a polka @-@ dotted blouse with matching flounces at the bottom of white trousers and hair in a top knot with a ponytail . The costume was adopted from a My Fair Lady dress and was designed by Jean @-@ Paul Gaultier . Three different performances are found in the Blond Ambition : Japan Tour 90 VHS , the Blond Ambition World Tour Live VHS and the Truth or Dare documentary . The performance included in the documentary was used as a music video to promote it . The performance received four nominations at the 1992 MTV Video Music Awards , including Best Female Video , Best Dance Video , Best Choreography in Video and Best Cinematography in Video , but did not win any of the categories .

In The Girlie Show in 1993 , the song was performed in an alternate version as the second to last song of the tour . It had a military theme to it . Halfway through the performance Madonna paused the song for a military drill with the dancers and the audience . The performance met with strong reaction in Puerto Rico , when Madonna rubbed the Puerto Rican national flag between her legs in between the performance . For the Drowned World Tour in 2001 Madonna wore a fur coat , velvet fedora and a customised Dolce & Gabbana T @-@ shirt which proclaimed ' Mother ' in the front and ' F \* cker ' in the back painted in silver . This demonstrated her ghetto @-@ girl appearance adopted for the song 's performance .

In the Re @-@ Invention Tour in 2004 , the song was again performed as the ending song of the tour . The song was given a tribal feeling with Madonna wearing Scottish kilts during the performance . The performance started with Madonna and her dancers doing a dance routine in front of the stage , then Madonna going on the revolving tiers of the stage to sing the song as confetti fell from above . The performance was included in the I 'm Going to Tell You a Secret live album and documentary . Stephen Thomas Erlewine of Allmusic commented that the performance " feels like they could fit the Eurotrash , campy retro @-@ disco feel of Confessions . "

The song was added to the 2009 leg of her Sticky & Sweet Tour . It replaced the song " Heartbeat " from Hard Candy and was used as a tribute to singer Michael Jackson who died a week prior to the start of the second leg of the tour . As Madonna sang the song , a picture of a young Jackson appeared on stage , followed by a Jackson impersonator wearing garments in Jackson style . The music then switched to a medley of his songs , like " Billie Jean " and " Wanna Be Startin ' Somethin ' " , and the impersonator worked through his moves , including the moonwalk as well as the spinning and gyrating . Madonna clapped her hands , swayed from side to side and jumped up and down while images of Jackson over the years flashed on a big screen . After the performance ,

Madonna told the crowd , " Let 's give it up for one of the greatest artists the world has ever known ,  
" and the crowd applauded .

The song was the closing number to Madonna 's Rebel Heart Tour in 2015 .

= = Covers and media appearance = =

British synthpop band Heaven 17 recorded a cover for the 1999 compilation Virgin Voices Vol . 1 : A Tribute To Madonna . In 2002 , Mad 'House recorded a Club cover of the song for their album Absolutely Mad . Girl Authority covered the song in 2007 for their album , Road Trip . French singer and adult film star Quentin Elias has also covered the song in live performances . In 1986 , Dutch rap duo MC Miker G & DJ Sven released " Holiday Rap " , a song which sampled the tune and chorus of Madonna 's " Holiday " . It achieved commercial success by peaking the charts in countries like France , Netherlands and Switzerland and going the top ten of Austria , Norway and Sweden . The bassline of the song was sampled by The Avalanches for their 2000 album Since I Left You . It was used on the songs " Stay Another Season " and " Little Journey " .

The song was redone by the Will & Grace cast as " He 's Hot " for the sitcom 's soundtrack in 2004 and even includes vocal samples from Madonna herself . Almost all of the instrumental part of the song " He 's Hot ! " uses samples from the original song . The Canadian teen drama Degrassi : The Next Generation , which is known for naming each episode after an 80s hit song , named a two @-@ part episode after " Holiday " . In 2006 , critics noted strong similarity between " Holiday " and American singer Jessica Simpson 's single " A Public Affair " . When criticized for its unoriginality , Simpson told MTV : " I think people are ready to hear something that Madonna used to do . We all need to hear that every now and again . It wasn 't a sample or something I meant to do , but she did influence me and still does today . " In 2008 , " Holiday " appeared on the video game Karaoke Revolution Presents : American Idol Encore . Kelis often performs a mash @-@ up of her own hit " Milkshake " with " Holiday " live . In 2003 , a snippet of the song appeared in the film Rugrats Go Wild , when the families went on their cruise .

= = Track listings and formats = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Madonna ? vocals , cowbell

Curtis Hudson ? writer , guitars

Lisa Stevens ? writer

John " Jellybean " Benitez ? producer

Fred Zarr ? drum programming , moog bass , synthesizer , acoustic piano

Raymond Hudson ? bass

Bashiri Johnson ? percussion

Tina B. ? background vocals

Norma Jean Wright ? background vocals

Credits adapted from the album liner notes .

= = Charts and certifications = =