

= Cool (Gwen Stefani song) =

" Cool " is a song by American singer and songwriter Gwen Stefani from her debut solo studio album , Love . Angel . Music . Baby . (2004) . Written by Stefani and Dallas Austin , the song was released on July 5 , 2005 as the album 's fourth single . It was written by Austin basing the song on No Doubt 's " Simple Kind of Life " , but he did not finish it . He then asked for help from Stefani , and they finished the song in 15 minutes . The single 's musical style and production were inspired by synthpop and new wave arrangements from the 1980s , and its lyrics chronicle a relationship in which two lovers have separated , but remain " cool " with each other as good friends .

The song received generally positive reviews from music critics , being compared to Cyndi Lauper and Madonna songs from the 1980s . The media have drawn parallels between the song 's lyrical content and the romantic relationship that Stefani had with Tony Kanal , a fellow group member of No Doubt . The song was moderately successful on the charts , reaching the top 10 in Australia , the Czech Republic , and New Zealand , as well as the top 20 in Denmark , Ireland , Norway , the United Kingdom , and the United States .

The accompanying music video was filmed by British director Sophie Muller in Lake Como , Italy . It features many flashbacks to when Stefani and her former boyfriend were dating , and currently , both are fine with their friendship . The song was included on the setlist for Stefani 's debut tour Harajuku Lovers Tour and the tour 's video album , as well as in the 2010 drama film Somewhere .

= = Writing and composition = =

" Cool " was originally written by Dallas Austin after listening to Stefani 's group No Doubt 's song " Underneath It All " (2002) . Austin commented that he was trying to write his version of No Doubt 's " Simple Kind of Life " , but he was unable to finish the song . He later asked Stefani if she wanted to co -@- write lyrics . During a studio session together , they finished " Cool " in 15 minutes . Stefani commented , " When he told me about the track and where it came from for him , it just triggered something in me . " The lyrics of " Cool " reflect Stefani 's former relationship with No Doubt bassist Tony Kanal . Although their romantic relationship ended , the lyrics portray Stefani 's attitude that it is " cool " that they still remain very good friends . Stefani and Kanal 's relationship had provided the inspiration for No Doubt 's " Don 't Speak " (1996) , and while " Cool " presents an amicable friendship between former lovers , " Don 't Speak " is about a failing relationship and never arrives at a solution for the couple . Stefani said that she had never intended to include " personal " material on Love . Angel . Music . Baby . , and commented , " but no matter what you do , things just come out . It just ended this whole thing for me in my head , and it puts an end to a chapter in a really nice way . " The lyrics of " Cool " sum up the evolution of their relationship with the line " After all that we 've been through , I know we 're cool " .

" Cool " is a mid @-@ tempo love song featuring a synthpop and new wave production . The song is composed in D major . It is written in common time , it moves at a moderate tempo of 112 beats per minute , and it has a vocal range from the tone of F ? 3 to the note of C ? 5 . The song is written in the common verse @-@ chorus form , featuring five instruments : bass guitar , drums , guitar , keyboards , and synthesizer . " Cool " opens with all five instruments , and as Stefani begins singing , the synthesizer is lowered , and the hard @-@ hitting drum beat steadily increases in volume . She performs her highest pitch (C ? 5) during the chorus , after which she sings in a softer , almost sotto voce , and her lowest pitch (E3) at the beginning of the verses . The synthesizer emulates brass and woodwind instruments , while the bass and guitar retain a prominent and regular eighth note pulse , using a I ? IV ? V chord progression for the verses . In the percussion section a drum kit is used , and the snare is introduced at the beginning of the first chorus , which maintains its beat . During the song 's fade @-@ out , Stefani repeats " I know we 're cool " and " yeah " , and she occasionally emphasizes " cool " . Her vocal range covers close to two octaves .

= = Critical reception = =

" Cool " received acclaim from music critics . Yahoo ! Music 's Jennifer Nine referred to the song as " a liltingly sweet paean to post @-@ break @-@ up friendships " , while Stephen Thomas Erlewine from AllMusic called it a " high school anthem @-@ in @-@ waiting " theme ; it also was selected as one of the album 's highlights . Richard Smirke of Playlouder commented that the song successfully used the same production formula as fellow album tracks " Serious " and " What You Waiting For ? " , and described it as a " crisp blend of edgy 21C production and early 80s Madonna @-@ esque pop " . Jason Damas , in a review for PopMatters , characterized it as " a slippery slice of keyboard " New Wave song referring to it as a " pitched halfway between The Go @-@ Go 's and Cyndi Lauper " .

Eric Greenwood for Drawer B called " Cool " " a retrofitted [song] with stale synths and chugging guitars " with " dorkier lyrics than even Cyndi Lauper would dare " . Sandy Cohen from the Toronto Star called it " the year 's love anthem " . Entertainment Weekly reviewer David Browne described Stefani , in " Cool " and in another song (" The Real Thing ") , as " a glacial ' 80s synthpop zombie " . Krissi Murison from NME found Stefani 's performance reminiscent of " Madonna 's breathless purr " . John Murphy wrote for musicOMH that " Cool " would remind No Doubt fans of " Don 't Speak " . Blender magazine editors ranked " Cool " at number 45 on its list of " The 100 Greatest Songs of 2005 " .

= = Commercial performance = =

In the United States , the song debuted at number 86 on the Billboard Hot 100 on the issue dated July 16 , 2005 . The next week it rose to number 64 , and it reached its peak position of number 13 on September 3 , 2005 . On other Billboard charts , the single topped the Hot Dance Club Play , reached number four on the Adult Top 40 and number nine on the Pop 100 . In Australia it debuted and peaked at number 10 on September 11 , 2005 , dropping off the chart on November 13 , 2005 at number 49 . In New Zealand " Cool " became the second highest debut of the week ending September 5 , 2005 , at number 11 . It rose to its peak position of number nine the following week , becoming her fifth consecutive top 10 in the country .

In European countries the song performed moderately , reaching the top 40 in most of them . It reached number 26 on the European Hot 100 Singles on October 8 , 2005 . On the Czech Airplay Chart , " Cool " entered the chart number 12 , achieving its peak position of number 10 in its 10th week . In Italy , it debuted at number 16 on September 22 , 2005 , peaking at number 15 the week after . The single debuted at number 18 on the Norwegian chart , climbing to number 16 the following week . " Cool " debuted and peaked at number 12 on the Irish Singles Chart during the week ending September 1 , 2005 . In the United Kingdom the single debuted and peaked at number 11 on the UK Singles Chart for the week of September 4 , 2005 , spending 10 weeks on the chart . In Austria " Cool " debuted at number 31 on September 11 , 2005 . Four weeks later , the song reached its peak position of number 15 , and was last seen on December 16 , 2005 , after 15 weeks .

= = Music video = =

The song 's music video was directed by Sophie Muller and filmed in Lake Como , Italy . " It was obvious I was gonna ask her to do it " , Stefani stated in an interview with VH1 's Box Set . The video follows the song 's theme and depicts the relationship that Stefani has with a former boyfriend , who is played by Spanish actor Daniel González . González and his new girlfriend ? played by Tony Kanal 's girlfriend , Erin Lokitz ? are shown walking up to a villa where Stefani answers the door . The villa featured in the video is the Villa Erba , in the town of Cernobbio , which Stefani said was " so beautiful " . The three of them are seen in each other 's company , with intercut scenes of Stefani singing on a bed . There are flashbacks to the time when Stefani and her former boyfriend were dating , where she has brunette hair . Flashbacks and present day images are linked with match cut cinematography . The lyrical theme of " Cool " is maintained in the video ; frames are incorporated to portray Stefani feeling " cool " . She is depicted as cool with her former boyfriend

and his girlfriend throughout most of the video .

The music video for " Cool " premiered on MTV 's top @-@ 10 chart program Total Request Live on June 30 , 2005 , where it reached number three . After its July 8 , 2005 debut on MuchMusic 's Countdown , it reached number one for the week of October 8 , 2005 .

= = Promotion = =

In mid @-@ October 2005 , " Cool " was included in the setlist for Stefani 's first concert tour , Harajuku Lovers Tour , performed as the 11th song of the show . The song was added to the tour 's video album Harajuku Lovers Live , released on December 5 , 2005 . It was also used in Sofia Coppola 's 2010 drama film Somewhere , in which Elle Fanning 's character Cleo performs an ice dancing routine to the song .

= = Track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Love . Angel . Music . Baby .

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =