

= Tim McGraw (song) =

" Tim McGraw " is the debut single and first published song recorded by American singer @-@ songwriter Taylor Swift . The song was written by Swift and Liz Rose , and produced by Nathan Chapman . It was released on June 19 , 2006 by Big Machine Records as Swift 's debut single and the lead single from Swift 's eponymous debut album . Swift wrote " Tim McGraw " during her freshman year of high school , knowing that she and her senior boyfriend would break up at the end of the year when he left for college . The song was written about all the different things that would remind the subject of Swift and their time spent together , once he departed . " Tim McGraw " is musical interconnection of traditional and modern country music . Lyrically , the track lists items in order to associate a past relationship , one of them being country artist Tim McGraw 's music .

The song was received with critical praise from music critics who complimented Swift 's vocal delivery . Some critics described it as tender , while others admired its professionalism . " Tim McGraw " performed well commercially . The track spent numbers of weeks upon both the Billboard Hot 100 and Hot Country Songs in the United States . It peaked at number 40 on the former and number six on the latter . The single was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and has sold more than one million copies since its release . The accompanying music video for " Tim McGraw " , directed by Trey Fanjoy , comprises flashbacks by Swift 's love interest , among cut scenes that feature Swift lying on a lake bed . " Tim McGraw " was promoted by Swift on a radio tour and performances in numerous venues . Swift performed it while serving as opening act for various country artists ' concert tours . She also performed it as part of her first headlining concert tour , the Fearless Tour (2009 ? 10) .

= = Background = =

Swift and Liz Rose wrote " Tim McGraw " during Swift 's freshman year at Hendersonville High School . She conceived the idea in the midst of her mathematics class : " I was just sitting there , and I started humming this melody . " She then related the melody to a predicament she was encountering at the moment . Swift knew that she and her senior boyfriend would break up at the end of the year when he left for college . In order to cope with the complicated emotions she was experiencing , Swift wrote the song . Rose said Swift showed up at her after school job , writing songs for Sony / ATV Music , " with the idea and the melody , knowing exactly what she wanted . " She desired for the song to capture the sweetness and sadness of loving and losing someone . It was written about all the different things that would remind the subject of Swift and their time spent together , once he departed . " To her surprise , the first thing that came to mind was [her] love of Tim McGraw 's music . " Several personal details were listed for the song . McGraw 's mentioning was a reference to Swift 's favorite song , " Can 't Tell Me Nothin " from his 2004 album Live Like You Were Dying , rather than McGraw as a person . The writing process , as with " Our Song " , took place in approximately twenty minutes , and was executed with the use of a piano .

Soon after , Scott Borchetta , CEO of Big Machine Records , signed Swift to his newly formed label . Early into the album production , in a meeting where Borchetta and Swift discussed potential songs for Swift 's debut album , she performed " Tim McGraw " for Borchetta on fluke ukulele . According to Swift , as soon as Borchetta finished listening to the song , he faced Swift and said , " That 's your first single . " She responded , " Well . That 's how that works then . " Prior to that event , Swift did not believe that the song was single material . However , she followed what label executives told her and accepted that they were correct . Swift placed " Tim McGraw " as the first track on Taylor Swift because of its importance to her . The song was eventually released as a CD single on June 19 , 2006 . In retrospect , Swift has said that the song " is reminiscent , and it is thinking about a relationship you had and then lost . I think one of the most powerful human emotions is what should have been and wasn 't ... That was a really good song to start out on , because a lot of people can relate to wanting something you can 't have . " When the song 's subject discovered it , he thought it was " cool " and kept friendship with Swift despite their breakup .

= = Composition = =

" Tim McGraw " is a country song with a length of three minutes and 52 seconds . The song mingles traditional and modern country music features , primarily through its usage of a twelve @-@ string guitar . It is set in common time and has a moderate tempo of 72 beats per minute . Thus , it is categorized as a ballad with a mid @-@ paced nature . It is written in the key of C major and Swift 's vocals span one octave , from F3 to G4 . Swift 's vocals are prominent in twang . " Tim McGraw " follows the chord progression C5 ? Am ? F ? Gsus ? G.

The lyrics of " Tim McGraw " regard a summer romance that came to a sudden halt . The song fondly reminisces an ex @-@ boyfriend , and directs the lyrics towards him , rather than country singer Tim McGraw himself . It uses McGraw 's music as a marker in their relationship timeline : " When you think Tim McGraw / I hope you think my favorite song . " Sean Dooley of About.com stated , " Music has the power to evoke memories , and it 's an old Tim McGraw song that triggers her happy memories . " McGraw 's reference is one of the several items used for association of the failed relationship , along with other items and places , such as a little black dress .

= = Critical reception = =

The song was well received by critics . Rob Sheffield of Blender magazine described the track as gem that hit hard . Sean Dooley of About.com complimented Swift 's vocal delivery , describing it as " tender and emotive . " Jonathan Keefe of Slant Magazine believe " Tim McGraw " followed " time @-@ tested narrative conventions and [...] massive pop hooks . " Jeff Tamarkin of Allmusic said that the song demonstrated Swift was " a talent to be reckoned with " , because of her vocal delivery that , according to him , equated that of a seasoned professional . He selected " Tim McGraw " as Taylor Swift 's main highlight for its homage to Tim McGraw , commenting , " It 's a device that 's been used countless times in as many ways [...] , yet it works as a hook here and manages to come off as an original idea . " Rick Bell of Country Standard Time stated , " It 's an impressive debut that , while she pines about lost love and Tim McGraw , will likely have others singing the praises of Taylor Swift . " Roger Holland of PopMatters praised the song , commenting it was " good enough to recall some of the best country singles of recent years " , such as Rachel Proctor 's " Me and Emily " and Julie Roberts 's " Break Down Here . " He complimented Swift 's vocal abilities on the song , saying it was executed " quite perfectly " , something she was unable to carry throughout the album Taylor Swift . However , Holland was repugnant of the song 's title . In 2007 , " Tim McGraw " was listed as a " Winning Song " by Broadcast Music Incorporated (BMI) .

= = Chart performance = =

On the week ending September 23 , 2006 , " Tim McGraw " debuted at number eighty @-@ six on the Billboard Hot 100 . After seventeen weeks of ascending and descending the chart , on the week ending January 13 , 2007 , the song reached its peak at number forty on the Billboard Hot 100 , where it maintained for two consecutive weeks . On the week ending February 3 , 2007 , the song spent its last week on the Billboard Hot 100 at number forty @-@ three , after a total of twenty weeks on the chart . The single was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America for the shipment of over 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 copies . As of November 2014 , " Tim McGraw " has sold 1 @.@ 5 million copies in the United States .

Prior to charting on the United States ' main chart , " Tim McGraw " charted on Billboard Hot Country Songs . On the week ending July 1 , 2006 , " Tim McGraw " debuted at number sixty on the Billboard Hot Country Songs . After spending twenty @-@ five weeks upon Billboard Hot Country Songs , the song reached the top ten with its new peak of number ten on the week ending December 16 , 2006 . In the proceeding six weeks , the song managed remained on the top ten until finding its peak at number six on the week ending January 27 , 2007 . " Tim McGraw " spent a total of thirty @-@ five weeks upon the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart .

= = Music video = =

The accompanying music video for " Tim McGraw " was directed by Trey Fanjoy . In regards to the video 's concept , Swift stated , " It deals with the haunting power of music and how hearing a song years after it was first popular can have such an emotional appeal . " Clayton Collins portrayed Swift 's love interest in the music video . He was cast because of his physical resemblance to the real subject of the song , in that they were both tall with dark hair . The video begins with Swift , dressed by a white sundress , as she lies on the grass of a lake @-@ bed and holds a transistor radio . Suddenly , the setting is switched to Collins as he drives a white and orange 1970 Chevrolet CST @-@ 10 . He then turns his radio on and ceases driving , coming to a complete stop on a road . As Collins facial expressions become more serious , he flashbacks to memories with Swift . Swift and Collins are seen frolicking in a field , lying beside another on the back of Collins ' CST @-@ 10 , staring at the stars together , holding hands as they walk , and slow dancing . When the song is in its final chorus , Collins arrives at a wooden cabin in his pick @-@ up truck . He runs up the staircase to discover an enveloped letter next to the door . He then sits on the staircase , opens the envelope , and reads the letter . The video transcends towards Swift playing an acoustic guitar as she leans against the wooden cabin . Cut @-@ scenes feature Swift lying on the lake @-@ bed and performing with a guitar next to the wooden cabin . The video concludes with Swift , once again , lying on the initial setting .

The video premiered on July 22 , 2006 on Great American Country . The video received a nomination for " Number One Streamed Video From a New Artist (Rookie of the Year Award) " at the web @-@ hosted 2006 CMT Online Awards , but lost to Lindsey Haun 's video for " Broken " . At the 2007 CMT Music Awards , the video won the CMT Music Award for " Breakthrough Video of the Year " . To date , the video has over 32 million views on YouTube .

= = Live performances = =

Swift spent six months of 2006 promoting " Tim McGraw " and Taylor Swift on a radio tour . She performed the song as she opened for Rascal Flatts on several dates , from October 19 to November 3 , 2006 , included on the Me and My Gang Tour (2006 ? 07) . Swift performed " Tim McGraw " as the concert 's penultimate performance . She dressed in a black , knee @-@ length dress and red cowboy boots with a design of a skull and cross bones across it , playing an acoustic guitar . Swift requested for the audience to raise their cell phones in order to simulate a sky filled with stars , when the song reached the lyrics " He said the way my blue eyes shined / Put those Georgia stars to shame that night / I said that 's a lie . " She also performed the song when she served as opening act on twenty dates for George Strait 's 2007 United States tour , and selected dates for Brad Paisley 's Bonfires & Amplifiers Tour in 2007 . During mid @-@ 2007 , Swift engaged as the opening act on several dates for Tim McGraw 's and Faith Hill 's joint tour , Soul2Soul II Tour (2006 ? 07) , where she again performed " Tim McGraw " . Swift performed the song while she was again opening for Rascal Flatts for their Still Feels Good Tour in 2008 .

Swift 's first broadcast performance of " Tim McGraw " was on October 24 , 2006 , on Good Morning America . She continued promotion for the track at Billboard headquarters , the 2007 Academy of Country Music Awards , The Engine Room , and a concert at the Apple Store in SoHo , New York , which was recorded and released as a live extended play (EP) , iTunes Live from SoHo , exclusively sold through the iTunes Store . Since completing promotion for Taylor Swift and its corresponding singles , Swift has performed " Tim McGraw " at the 2009 CMA Music Festival , the 2009 V Festival , and the Australian charity concert Sydney Sound Relief .

Swift performed " Tim McGraw " on all venues of her first headlining concert tour , the Fearless Tour , which extended from April 2009 to June 2010 . The performances of " Tim McGraw " set on a small platform located at the opposite end , parallel to the stage in the arena . Swift , dressed in a pastel sundress , sat on a wooden stool while performing with wooden acoustic guitar strapped to her shoulder . Swift then completed the performance standing and walking back to the main stage . As she worked her way back to the stage , she again hugged fans , squeezed their outstretched

hands and scrawled quick autographs . Nicole Frehsee of Rolling Stone favored Swift 's performance of " Tim McGraw " at the August 27 , 2009 , concert at Madison Square Garden in New York City . Frehsee described the entire concert as an " elaborate spectacle that doesn 't slow down , even when the singer hauls her acoustic guitar into the audience to play a sweet , stripped down set of tunes including [..] ' Tim McGraw ' . " Brandy McDonnel of The Oklahoman reported a massive sing @-@ along by the audience at the March 31 , 2010 , concert at the Ford Center in Oklahoma City . Molly Trust of Billboard attended the performance at the tour 's final concert on June 5 , 2010 , at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough , Massachusetts and conjectured that the performance 's setting was formed in order to " afford a better view to fans farther back . "

= = Track listings = =

US Maxi @-@ CD Single

" Tim McGraw " ? 3 : 54

" Tim McGraw " (radio edit) ? 3 : 41

" Tim McGraw " (instrumental) ? 3 : 54

" Tim McGraw " (enhanced video) ? 4 : 02

= = Charts = =

= = = Year @-@ end charts = = =