

= My Happiness ( Powderfinger song ) =

" My Happiness " is the album of Australian rock band by Powderfinger . It was released on 21 August 2000 by Universal Music Australia . It won the 2001 ARIA Music Award for Single of the Year . Odyssey Number Five . The single is Powderfinger 's most successful ; it peaked at number four on the Australian ARIA Singles Chart , and charted in the United States on the Hot Modern Rock Tracks chart ? the first Powderfinger song to do so .

Powderfinger frontman Bernard Fanning wrote the lyrics for " My Happiness " as a reflection on the time the band spent touring to promote their work , and the loneliness that came as a result . It was inspired by his love of gospel and soul music . The rest of the band are co @-@ credited with Fanning for composing the track . Despite its melancholy mood , " My Happiness " is considered by many to be a love song , a suggestion Fanning regards as mystifying .

" My Happiness " was released as a single with " My Kind of Scene " as a B @-@ side . It was instantly successful , charting highly in Australia and New Zealand . It won an ARIA Award and an APRA Award and topped the Triple J Hottest 100 in 2000 as well as coming 27th in the 2009 Hottest 100 of all Time . " My Happiness " was highly praised by critics , with even negative reviews of Odyssey Number Five noting it as a highlight , especially for its catchy chorus . " My Kind of Scene " was equally popular . One of the highlights of Powderfinger 's United States tour with Coldplay was a performance of " My Happiness " on Late Show with David Letterman ; they were only the fourth Australian act to appear on the show .

= = Production and content = =

If you can 't cop a bit of emotional stuff then you should go and get the lamp shade extracted from your arse . If you don 't think there is enough rock in your life then let me know and I will personally come around to your house and chuck stones at you .

? Bernard FanningIn response to " My Happiness " being described by fans as " like Lauryn Hill , bland and boring Top 40 bullshit " .

The lyrics for " My Happiness " were written by Bernard Fanning , Powderfinger 's lead singer and songwriter . The rest of the band are co @-@ credited with Fanning for composing the track . The song describes feelings of love and separation ; Sain 's Pennie Dennison said it described " the pining feeling you experience when you spend time away from the one you love " . Fanning called it " a sad story of touring and the absence loneliness that comes with it " . The extensive time spent touring took its toll on the band , and it was on the back of this that Fanning wrote " My Happiness " . Thus , he expressed confusion at its being considered a romantic song .

" My Happiness " was attacked by some fans as being " like Lauryn Hill , bland and boring Top 40 bullshit " ; guitarist Ian Haug rebutted by pointing out that the song was an example of the new emotional level on which Powderfinger made music , while Fanning was more aggressive in his defence of the song . In response to being dubbed " Mr Miserable " by The Sun @-@ Herald 's Peter Holmes for the lyrics of " My Happiness " and " These Days " , Fanning pointed out that the songs could be construed either as melancholy , or as part of " the most hopeful record ... in a long time " .

Much of Fanning 's writing is inspired by non @-@ rock music , and " My Happiness " is no exception . Gospel and soul music that is " unashamedly about love and how good it makes you feel " was common during the Odyssey Number Five recording sessions . Powderfinger worked hard in those sessions to ensure a more polished work than Internationalist ; guitarist Darren Middleton concluded that " My Happiness " , " The Metre " , and " Up & Down & Back Again " were more " complete " because of the band 's efforts . The lighter elements of " My Happiness " in comparison to some of the band 's earlier work saw Fanning reveal his passion for several other musicians , such as James Taylor ? something that " five years ago ... would have been an embarrassing thing to say " .

= = Touring and promotion = =

" My Happiness " was put on heavy rotation by Los Angeles radio station KROQ @-@ FM two months prior to its United States release , and Powderfinger signed a contract with United States label Republic as a result of the song 's early success . Beat journalist Jayson Argall joked the song had received " a bit " of airplay . Although " My Happiness " was subsequently dropped from KROQ @-@ FM 's roster , other radio stations continued to give the song high priority .

" My Happiness " peaked at number 23 on the Hot Modern Rock Tracks , making it the first Powderfinger song to appear on a Billboard chart . According to Susan Groves of WHRL , part of the song 's success came about because very few people knew of Powderfinger , but were drawn towards " My Happiness " because it was " melodic , [ and ] pretty " ? a change from what she described as " middle of the road rock " popular in the United States . Meanwhile , Australians were " starting to get sick of My Happiness " ? Cameron Adams argued in The Hobart Mercury that this was one of the reasons Powderfinger decided to focus on the offshore market .

Powderfinger performed " My Happiness " live on talk show Late Show with David Letterman while touring North America with British rock group Coldplay , . They were the fourth Australian act ( after The Living End , Silverchair , and Nick Cave ) to play on the show . The band also did free promotional shows leading up to the release of the single . In Europe , " My Happiness " received approximately four weeks of airplay on German music video program Viva II , and the band sold out for three nights in a row in London , partly due to the success of the single .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " My Happiness " starts at a train station ( Roma Street railway station in Brisbane ) with a boy and girl stepping off a train . As the pair leave the train , the boy turns and tries to reach for something , but the girl pulls him back . It is shown that he was reaching for a sentient slinky . The slinky leaves the train , and passes Middleton busking in the train station . The slinky ventures to find the boy , facing a range of challenges along the way ; these include avoiding fruit falling on it and riding a skateboard . In the middle of the music clip , the slinky is shown making its way through a music room in which Powderfinger are performing " My Happiness " . It rests on the bar and the band finishes playing , while the background music continues . As Powderfinger leaves , the slinky is picked up by Haug . He gets into a car and places the slinky on the car 's dashboard , but it falls out the window as the car turns a tight corner . It lands outside the gate of a house and is picked up and brought inside to the boy .

The video was created by Fifty Fifty Films , who created numerous other Powderfinger music videos . It was directed by Chris Applebaum and produced by Keeley Gould of A Band Apart , with editing by Jeff Selis . Cameron Adams of The Courier Mail reported that following the music video 's release , slinky sales increased dramatically .

= = Release and commercial success = =

" My Happiness " was released as a single in Australia on 21 August 2000 . When asked how they chose the release date , Fanning jokingly said " the release date is timed to coincide with the Olympics , when all the visitors are here ... they can go into HMV and pick it up . " At the time of the single 's release , the band 's previous album , Internationalist , was still in the top 50 on the ARIA Albums Chart , 95 weeks after entering . The single featured B @-@ side " My Kind of Scene " , which had already received strong airplay due to its appearance on the Mission : Impossible II soundtrack . " My Happiness " appeared on a Triple M compilation entitled Triple M 's New Stuff , and on a Kerrang ! compilation , Kerrang ! 2 The Album .

" My Happiness " entered the ARIA singles chart at number four ? making it Powderfinger 's highest @-@ charting single in Australia ? and spent 24 weeks on the chart . It reached number two on the Queensland singles chart , and peaked at number seven on the New Zealand singles chart , on which it spent 23 weeks . " My Happiness " was Powderfinger 's first single to chart in the USA , reaching number 23 on the Modern Rock Tracks chart .

The song won the " Single of the Year " award at the ARIA Awards of 2001 , and the 2001 " Song of the Year " APRA Award . Furthermore , " My Happiness " topped the Triple J Hottest 100 chart in 2000 , and appeared on that year 's CD release . Rolling Stone Australia named " My Happiness " " Song of the Year " in a reader poll . " My Happiness " was the eighth most @-@ played song on Australian radio in 2001 .

= = Critical reception = =

" My Happiness " was a critical success . Cameron Adams of The Herald Sun wrote that " My Happiness " did not disappoint in the trend of excellent first singles from Powderfinger , citing " Pick You Up " and " The Day You Come " as examples . He praised the song 's structure , stating that " the verses almost crash into the chorus " . Adams also expressed surprise that " My Kind of Scene " was only released as a B @-@ side . The Newcastle Herald 's Chad Watson described a mixture of acoustic and electric guitar and " a restrained yet warmly infectious chorus " . Despite praising it as a " Big Rock Anthem™ " , Richard Jinman of The Sydney Morning Herald complained that " My Happiness " was not as " hummable " as past singles " Passenger " or " These Days " . Devon Powers of PopMatters described it , and " Waiting for the Sun " , as sounding bored . The Evening Mail agreed ; it argued the " rock @-@ lite " song , while sounding lush , failed to " make you really sit up and take notice " .

In his highly negative review of Odyssey Number Five , Allmusic 's Dean Carlson labelled it one of the best songs , for the riff Powderfinger executed " better than most bands of their stature " . Adams also enjoyed the song 's " wobbly guitar " , and Sain 's Christie Eliszer approved of the " acoustic strumalong " , but The Advertiser 's Michael Duffy said the song was " a familiar piece of yearning guitar indie that is polished but pedestrian " ; he reserved his praise for " My Kind of Scene " , which he described as akin to the best of Internationalist . Darren Bunting wrote in the Hull Daily Mail that " My Happiness " was the best song on Odyssey Number Five , praising " soaring vocals , heartfelt lyrics and chiming guitar " . Entertainment Weekly 's Marc Weingarten said that on " My Happiness " , " Fanning 's heavy heart is tattered by scratching and clawing guitars " .

= = Charts = =

= = Awards = =

= = Track listing = =

" My Happiness " ? 4 : 36  
" My Kind of Scene " ? 4 : 37  
" Nature Boy " ? 3 : 12  
" Odyssey # 1 " ( Demo ) ? 4 : 09

= = Personnel = =

Powderfinger  
Bernard Fanning ? Vocals , tambourine  
Darren Middleton ? Guitars and backing vocals  
Ian Haug ? Guitars  
John Collins ? Bass guitars  
Jon Coghill ? Drums and percussion  
Production  
Nick DiDia ? Producer , engineer and mixer  
Matt Voigt ? Assistant engineer

Anton Hagop ? Assistant engineer  
Stewart Whitmore ? Digital editing  
Stephen Marcussen ? Mastering  
Anton Hagop ? Assistant producer  
Kevin Wilkins ? Art direction and photography