

= Do the Bartman =

" Do the Bartman " is a pop rap song from the 1990 Simpsons album The Simpsons Sing the Blues . It was performed by The Simpsons cast member Nancy Cartwright ( the voice of Bart Simpson ) , with backing vocals from Michael Jackson , alongside additional vocals from Dan Castellana ( voice of Homer Simpson ) . It was produced and written by American recording artist Bryan Loren , and released as a single on November 20 , 1990 .

Even though it received a lot of radio airplay in the United States , " Do the Bartman " was never officially released as a single in the United States . It topped the charts in Australia , Ireland , New Zealand , Norway , and the United Kingdom . Additionally , it reached the top 10 in Sweden and the Netherlands , and was certified gold in the United Kingdom . A music video , which was directed by Brad Bird , was released for the song in 1991 . The video became a hit on the American network MTV and received a nomination at the 1991 MTV Video Music Awards .

= = Background = =

The album The Simpsons Sing the Blues was released in September 1990 . The first single from it was the rap song " Do the Bartman " , performed by Bart Simpson 's voice actor Nancy Cartwright and released on November 20 , 1990 . Rumors began spreading in the summer of 1990 that Michael Jackson would write a song for Bart on the album . This song was reported early on to be " Do the Bartman " , but executive producer James L. Brooks issued a press release in September 1990 apologizing for the misunderstanding and stating that song was actually written by one of Jackson 's friends , Bryan Loren .

However , The Simpsons creator Matt Groening later stated during an appearance at the 1998 World Animation Celebration convention in Pasadena , California that " Do the Bartman " was actually co -@-@ written and co -@-@ produced by Jackson , but he could not receive credit for it because he was under contract to another record label . Groening told a crowd at the convention that had gathered for a " The Simpsons tribute " that it had " always [ been ] amazing to me that no one ever found out that Michael Jackson wrote that song . [ ... ] He was a big fan of the show . "

Jackson was a fan of The Simpsons , especially Bart , and had called the producers one night offering to write Bart a number one single and do a guest spot on the show , which is how " Do the Bartman " came about . Jackson eventually guest -@-@ starred in the episode " Stark Raving Dad " ( season three , 1991 ) under the pseudonym John Jay Smith . He also wrote a song for that episode called " Happy Birthday Lisa " , which was later included in the album Songs in the Key of Springfield . Bryan Loren has stated that Jackson had provided background vocals for " Do the Bartman " .

In July 2015 , when Bryan Loren was selling the publishing and songwriting rights for the song , Loren stated that " despite Matt Groening 's repeated confessions , I am the sole writer of the song " . Loren stated that Jackson 's contributions included back up vocals , providing the title " Do the Bartman " and that Jackson insisted his own name to be mentioned in the lyrics .

= = Critical reception = =

Critical reviews of the song were mostly positive . Ken Tucker of Entertainment Weekly described it as " not bad , " and commented that Bart 's high voice " echoes the beats nicely . " The Daily Vault 's Benny Balneg liked that the song disengaged itself from the album 's " blues tag " and incorporated more " contemporary elements " into its sound . He added that he thought the song had a " catchy beat " and an " infectious chorus . " The Long Beach Press -@-@ Telegram 's Patricia Smith called " Do the Bartman " a " surprisingly funky tune . " Monika Bartyzel of Cinematical , however , thought the song was a " cheesy number . "

" Do the Bartman " and its music video have become study material for sociology courses at the University of California Berkeley , where it is used to " examine issues of the production and reception of cultural objects , in this case , a satirical cartoon show " , and to figure out what it is "

trying to tell audiences about aspects primarily of American society , and , to a lesser extent , about other societies . "

= = Chart performance = =

While the song was never officially released as a single in the United States , it did top the charts in Australia , Ireland , New Zealand , Norway , and the United Kingdom . In the latter country , the song spent three weeks at the top of the UK Singles Chart , and became Britain 's seventh best @-@ selling song of 1991 . " Do The Bartman " has shipped at least 400 @,@ 000 units in the United Kingdom and was certified gold by the British Phonographic Industry on February 1 , 1991 . The song 's success in the United Kingdom was remarkable , given that at that time The Simpsons was airing only on British satellite television station Sky One . It would be five years before it was first on terrestrial television in Britain , airing on BBC One and later BBC Two .

In Ireland , " Do The Bartman " spent nine weeks at number one on the Irish Singles Chart from January 24 , 1991 to March 24 , 1991 . Only seven singles have ever managed a longer run at number one in that country . The song also charted at number @-@ one on New Zealands RIANZ Singles Chart on the issue date of January 25 , 1991 , and peaked at number @-@ one on the chart again , for a total of two weeks , from February 8 , 1991 to February 15 , 1991 .

In March 1991 , " Do the Bartman " became the first single to reach number one in Australia that was not available on 7 inch vinyl .

= = Music video = =

The music video features the typical plot of Bart rebelling against authority when he decides to put his own spin on a rigidly choreographed dance presentation at Springfield Elementary School . The music video for " Do the Bartman " was directed by Brad Bird , with dance choreography by Michael Chambers . Nobody from the staff of The Simpsons wanted to direct it because they were busy doing the show , but Bird finally agreed to do it after having been asked four times . He had a very short amount of time to finish the video because it was supposed to coincide with the release of The Simpsons Sing the Blues .

The entire music video was storyboarded in only two days in the United States . Bird then got on a plane to Budapest , Hungary , where the video was animated by Varga Studio . They thought the video was going to be animated as simply as the original The Simpsons shorts , shown on The Tracey Ullman Show , so when Bird told them that it was going to be done in full animation with no repeated scenes , they " went into deep shock " . The animators added the wraparound at the beginning to set Bart against the crowd and put the video in " some sort of context . "

The video was nominated for Best Special Effects at the 1991 MTV Video Music Awards . It was the number one music video on rotation on American MTV network between January and March 1991 . Following the death of Michael Jackson on June 25 , 2009 , the music video was broadcast by the Fox network on June 28 , 2009 ? ahead of a rerun of the episode " Wedding for Disaster " ? and featured a title card paying tribute to Jackson .

= = Charts = =

= = Track listing = =

7 " single :

" Do the Bartman " ( 7 " House Mix / Edit ) ? 3 : 54

" Do the Bartman " ( LP edit ) ? 3 : 59

CD single :

" Do the Bartman " ( 7 " House Mix / Edit ) ? 3 : 54

" Do the Bartman " ( LP edit ) ? 3 : 59

" Do the Bartman " ( Bad Bart House Mix ) ? 4 : 49

" Do the Bartman " ( a cappella ) ? 3 : 44