

= Summer of ' 69 =

" Summer of ' 69 " is a song recorded by Canadian recording artist Bryan Adams , from his fourth studio album , Reckless (1984) . The song was written by Adams and Jim Vallance , a long @-@ time writing partner of Adams . " Summer of ' 69 " was produced by Adams and Bob Clearmountain . It was released in June 1985 under A & M Records as the fourth single from Reckless . As with most Adams songs , " Summer of ' 69 " is an up @-@ tempo rock song .

The song was released with two B @-@ side tracks ; " Kids Wanna Rock " and " The Best Was Yet to Come " , which had previously appeared on the albums Reckless and Cuts Like a Knife respectively . " Summer of ' 69 " received favourable reviews from music critics . The single had a strong effect on music charts internationally , with its highest peak being number four in the Netherlands , and its least successful charting country being Germany . The track was promoted with a music video , which was filmed by Steve Barron . The video features Adams and his backing band in a variety of settings , including running from the police .

= = Conception and themes = =

After a tour supporting his album Cuts Like a Knife , he immediately started the recording sessions for the new album , Reckless . " Summer of ' 69 " was finished on January 25 , 1984 , co @-@ written with Jim Vallance in his basement studio . The song went through a number of changes because neither Adams nor Vallance was convinced it was a strong enough song to be featured on the album . In their first draft , the lyric " summer of ' 69 " appeared only once . At that time the two were planning to title it " Best Days of My Life " instead . While the lyric " Best days of my life " appeared seven times in the first draft , on the final draft it had been replaced by " summer of ' 69 " and only appeared two times throughout the song .

When writing the lyrics " Jimmy quit , Jody got married " , Vallance suggested using " Woody quit and Gordy got married " , referring to members of his high school band , but Adams liked his version better . Adams mentioned once in an interview that " Jimmy " was one of his early drummers . " Jody " is a reference to Adams ' sound manager , Jody Perpick , who got married during the album 's recording session .

On the song 's very first demo , it started with a 12 @-@ string riff , just like the breakdown section in the middle of the song , but they replaced it with a chunky 6 @-@ string intro on the second demo . The song was recorded three to four times , in different ways , with both Adams and Vallance still not convinced that it was finished .

When Adams appeared on The Early Show in 2008 , he was asked about " Summer of ' 69 " and its lyrical meaning . Adams said the song was about sex and making love in the summertime . " 69 " is a reference to the sexual position , 69 . On the Reckless 25th anniversary , Adams told In the Studio that the song was built on the theme of nostalgia , such as the " cultural revolution " , the break @-@ up of The Beatles , his discovery of music and the moon landing , but also about a character who plays until his fingers bleed and sexual discovery . Vallance however has gone for the more conventional interpretation of the title being a reference to a year . He notes Jackson Browne 's " Running on Empty " , which contains references to 1965 and 1969 , as his own influence , and recalls Adams citing the film Summer of ' 42 as his .

" That song is 25 years old now so it 's had that many years to incubate . A lot of songs , like that one , hit big in America but really not anywhere else . It didn 't chart anywhere in Europe until at least 10 years after it was released . [...] I think songs can have a life of their own regardless of the promotion . "

In 1985 the song won the BMI (Broadcast Music Inc .) Citation of Achievement for US radio airplay , the following year 1986 - Procan Award (Performing Rights Organization of Canada) for Canadian radio airplay and in 2000 it won a Socan Classics Award for more than 100 @,@ 000 Canadian radio performances . In a poll conducted by Decima Research in 2006 , " Summer of ' 69 " was voted the best driving song among Canadians who sing in their cars . The song topped the survey with both sexes , and with French and English @-@ speaking Canadians . In 2010 , the song was

voted the " hottest summer song " in Germany . In another poll , this time by Canadian magazine Chart , " Summer of ' 69 " was voted the fourth best song of all @-@ time in 2000 , four years earlier it had been voted the twenty @-@ fourth best song of all @-@ time . The song was ranked # 17 on CBC Radio 's 50 Tracks : The Canadian Version . In 2008 , the song was voted the 87th best @-@ song of all @-@ time by radio listeners in Norway , becoming the second highest Adams song ranked , the highest being " (Everything I Do) I Do It for You " from 1991 . It was voted the fourth best @-@ song ever on Radio 2 , a Belgian radio station , in 2008 .

" Summer of ' 69 " remains popular to this day in many countries around the world . The song has a dedicated following in Nepal and " always gets a warm reception " when played by the bands performing in the country . Bryan Adams sang " Summer of ' 69 " during the 2011 Cricket World Cup opening ceremony in Bangladesh .

= = Accolades = =

" Summer of ' 69 " has found itself in several " best of " lists compiled by various music publications and critics , including the following :

= = Chart performance = =

" Summer of ' 69 " was released as a single internationally in June 1985 and charted on the Billboard Hot 100 where it peaked at 5 . Like the previous single released from Reckless , " Heaven " , " Summer of ' 69 " was a commercial success worldwide . " Summer of ' 69 " debuted at number fifty @-@ nine , and managed to climb up the chart , and two weeks later reached its peak position 42 , on August 24 , 1985 , on the UK Singles Chart . The single remained on the country 's chart for four consecutive weeks from August to September 1985 , before falling out of the top 100 . The track debuted at number twenty @-@ two on September 22 , and peaked at number seven in the fifth week on the New Zealand Singles Chart . The song debuted at 95 on the Canadian RPM Singles Chart on June 29 , 1985 , jumping to fifty in its second week and peaking at eleven on September 14 , 1985 after spending seven weeks on the chart .

The song debuted at its peak position , number 9 , on August 10 , on the Norwegian Singles Chart and stayed there for another four weeks before falling off the charts . " Summer of ' 69 " charted on the Swedish Singles Chart for five consecutive weeks . Having debuted at number twenty on December 13 , and peaked at number thirteen two weeks later . The single spent another three weeks on the chart before falling off . The track peaked at number seventeen on the Austrian Singles Chart , and remained on the country 's chart for five weeks . The single 's most commercially successful charting territory was the Netherlands , where it peaked at number 4 on September 22 , 1990 . The single 's least successful chart territory was Germany . Having peaked on the country 's singles chart at number sixty @-@ two , the single spent the next five weeks fluctuating down the chart .

= = Music video = =

The music video , released in 1985 , was directed by Irish director Steve Barron . In 1985 the music video was nominated for an MTV Video Music Award in the category for Best Male Video . While the song did not win the award , it was one of the four nominated songs from Adams ' fourth studio album Reckless . The video includes appearances by Lysette Anthony and Garwin Sanford .

= = Track listings = =

All songs written by Bryan Adams and Jim Vallance

= = Personnel = =

Bryan Adams - rhythm guitar , vocals
Keith Scott - lead guitar , backing vocals
Dave Taylor - bass
Pat Steward - drums
Tommy Mandel - keyboards
Bruce Paulen - backing vocals

= = Charts = =