= Walking on Air (Katy Perry song) =

" Walking on Air " is a song recorded by American singer Katy Perry for her fourth studio album , Prism (2013) , included as its fourth track . It was released to digital retailers on September 30 , 2013 , by Capitol Records , as the record 's second promotional single , following the release of " Dark Horse " . The song was part of a poll promoted by Pepsi , along with " Dark Horse " , where fans could vote for which song they wanted to become the first promotional single from Prism . Inspired by CeCe Peniston and Crystal Waters , " Walking on Air " is a deep house song influenced by 1990s Eurodance .

Upon its release , " Walking on Air " received generally favorable reviews from music critics , who highlighted its catchiness , but were ambivalent towards its musical composition . The track entered several charts with moderate digital downloads , including reaching number 34 on the US Billboard Hot 100 . Internationally , it charted in the top 20 in various countries , including Australia , Canada , and New Zealand . Perry promoted " Walking on Air " with several live performances , including at the 2013 iTunes Festival and Saturday Night Live .

= = Background and release = =

" Walking on Air " was produced and programmed by Swedish record producers Klas Åhlund and Max Martin . It was recorded and engineered at Apmamman and MXM Studios , located in Stockholm , Sweden and Conway Recording Studios in Hollywood , California . It was engineered by Michael Illbert , Peter Carlsson , and Sam Holland , and assisted by Cory Bice . Serban Ghenea later mixed the song at MixStar Studios , in Virginia Beach , Virginia . Background vocals were provided by Sabina Ddumba and the Tensta Gospel Choir .

In a press release on August 20 , 2013 , PepsiCo announced a partnership with Perry to promote her fourth studio album Prism : the company announced a social " tweet @-@ to @-@ unlock " voting program , where fans could unlock song titles and their respective lyrics , by tweeting the hashtag # KATYNOW . The chosen tracks for the campaign were " Walking on Air " and " Dark Horse " . Once tweets voting for each song reached a certain number , their respective samples were unlocked and fans could start to vote for which one they wanted to have an early release on digital retailers . The winner was " Dark Horse " , which was released on September 17 , 2013 on the iTunes Store . However , after the release of the aforementioned song , the iTunes release of " Walking on Air " was announced , slated for September 30 .

= = Composition = =

Composed in the key of F ? minor , " Walking on Air " is a deep house song set in a 4 / 4 time signature at a moderately fast tempo of 128 beats per minute . The melody spans the tonal range of E3 to E5 , while the music follows the chord progression of F ? m ? E ? C ? m ? D. Throughout the song , various elements of 90s Eurodance and disco music can be heard . The track opens with Perry singing in her lower register over stacatto synths until the song 's " propulsive " beat begins . The singer has cited CeCe Peniston 's " Finally " and Crystal Waters ' " 100 % Pure Love " as inspirations for the sound she was aiming for with this song . Perry 's vocals near the end of " Walking on Air " were also compared to those of Christina Aguilera .

Written by Perry , Klas Åhlund , Max Martin , Adam Baptiste , and Caméla Leierth , " Walking on Air " discusses a love " so strong that even heaven is jealous " . Gil Kaufman from MTV commented on the song 's composition : " Between her wailing diva vocals , a gospel choir that kicks in during the final minute and the driving beat , Perry has captured a unique sound that both recalls the classic 1970s disco era as well as the EDM thump of today 's clubs . " HitFix writer Melinda Newman opined that the song was " redolent of ' 90s dance thumpers and is light as cotton candy and just as enjoyable " , adding that it would " make you long for C + C Music Factory " . The song was also described as evoking the music of Swedish singer Robyn , an artist of whom Perry is a fan .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical reaction = = =

Critical commentary of " Walking on Air " was mostly favorable : Sal Cinquemani from Slant Magazine was very positive of the song : he described it as " surprisingly soulful , throwback " to 1990s deep house , although he noted that Åhlund decided to give Perry a different sound from the Euro electro @-@ pop he had produced for Body Talk (2010) . Greg Kot from Chicago Tribune deemed the single a " catchy pop tune " , while Randall Roberts from the Los Angeles Times wrote that the song 's " euphoria " was " infectious " , and Rob Harvilla from Spin classified it as " delicious " . Also , Elysa Gardner from USA Today recommended readers to download " Walking on Air " .

Other reviews were mixed . Writing for The Guardian , Alexis Petridis criticized Prism for not having anything " sonically adventurous " , noting that the album mainly had 1990s pop @-@ house in its songs , giving the example of the " jangling piano riff " present on " Walking on Air " , but still found those melodies to be stronger than the ones found on Jessie J 's second studio album Alive (2013) . In a mixed to positive review of the song , Will Hermes from Rolling Stone described the song as " frothy " . Marah Eakin from The A.V. Club commented that " when Perry does stretch [.....] she tends to falter " , and mentioned " Walking on Air " and " Dark Horse " as examples . Consequence of Sound 's Chris Bosman described the song as a " vanilla re @-@ interpretation of Hercules and Love Affair " .

Helen Brown from The Daily Telegraph classified " Walking on Air " as a " forgettable bit of Nineties rave nostalgia " , while James Reed from The Boston Globe deemed it " buoyant " , and ABC News music writer Mesfin Fekadu called it " irresistible " . Kyle Anderson from Entertainment Weekly described the track as a " David Guetta @-@ esque blast of dancefloor adrenaline " . Sam Lansky from website Idolator wrote that the song was " pleasurable " , while Trent Wolbe from The Verge said it was a " triumphant ode " to various artists from the 1990s .

= = = Commercial performance = = =

On the week ending October 7 , 2013 , " Walking on Air " debuted at number 12 on the New Zealand Singles Chart . In Australia , the song charted on the ARIA Digital Track Chart at number 18 . On the week ending October 19 , 2013 , " Walking on Air " debuted at number 34 on the Billboard Hot 100 and debuted at number eight on Billboard Hot Digital Songs with 113 @,@ 000 downloads . As of November 2013 , the song has sold a total of 150 @,@ 000 copies in the United States .

= = Live performances = =

On September 30 , 2013 , Perry performed " Walking on Air " during her headlining set of the 2013 iTunes Festival at the Roundhouse . For the performance , she wore a black leather corset , a tartan miniskirt and fishnet tights , all part of a " racy " outfit . On October 12 , 2013 , the singer performed the song again on Saturday Night Live , where she was the musical guest of the episode . She wore a " ' 90s schoolgirl outfit " composed of a plaid skirt , knee socks and a white crop top . Kelci Shipley from MTV wrote that Perry " caught a case of retro fever for her performance of ' Walking On Air ' " . On her 29th birthday , October 25 , 2013 , Perry performed the song at Lakewood High School in Lakewood , Colorado . On May 25 , 2014 , she performed it in Glasgow at Radio 1 's Big Weekend .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording places
Recorded at Apmamman and MXM Studios (Stockholm , Sweden) ; Conway Recording Studios (Hollywood , California)
Mixed at MixStar Studios (Virginia Beach , Virginia)

Personnel

Songwriting ? Katy Perry , Klas Åhlund , Max Martin , Adam Baptiste , Caméla Leierth
Production ? Klas Åhlund , Max Martin
Engineering ? Michael Illbert , Peter Carlsson , Sam Holland
Engineering assistant ? Cory Bice
Mixing ? Serban Ghenea
Mixing engineer ? John Hanes
Lead vocals ? Katy Perry
Background vocals ? Sabina Ddumba , Tensta Gospel Choir
Programming ? Klas Åhlund , Max Martin
Credits adapted from Prism liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =