

= Speechless ( Lady Gaga song ) =

" Speechless " is a song written and performed by American singer Lady Gaga , from her third EP , The Fame Monster . The song was written by Gaga to convince her father , Joseph Germanotta , to undergo open @-@ heart surgery , in order to repair his malfunctioning aortic valve , and as a reminder for her younger fans to appreciate their parents . " Speechless " is described as Gaga 's " Fear of Death Monster " .

The 1970s rock music @-@ inspired power ballad received mixed reviews from critics , who praised it for drawing influences from Queen , as well as its sincerity while others criticized it for " com [ ing ] off as a fraud . " " Speechless " debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 at ninety @-@ four for the week of December 12 , 2009 . Gaga performed the song in a number of live appearances including the 2010 Grammys , 2009 American Music Awards , The 2009 Royal Variety Performance and The Monster Ball Tour .

= = Background = =

" Speechless " was written by Lady Gaga and produced by Ron Fair . Gaga explained in a November 2009 interview that her father , Joseph Germanotta , had a heart condition for approximately 15 years . She went on to say , " He has or he had a bad aortic valve , and his body for a very long time was only pumping a third of the blood that you 're supposed to get every time his heart beat . " She added ,

" My mom called me and I was very depressed . I was on tour and I couldn 't leave , so I went into the studio and I wrote this song ' Speechless , ' and it 's about these phone calls . My dad used to call me after he 'd had a few drinks and I wouldn 't know what to say . I was speechless and I just feared that I would lose him and I wouldn 't be there . "

The song was written as a plea for Germanotta to have the open @-@ heart surgery he needed for his condition . In October 2009 , Gaga confirmed that Germanotta had undergone the surgery . " My Daddy had open @-@ heart surgery today . And after long hours , and lots of tears , they healed his broken heart , and mine , " she announced through her official Twitter account . She stated that she hoped the song would inspire her younger fans to appreciate their parents . " I have a lot of fans who are really lovely , young , troubled fans , but I want to remind them that you only get one set of parents , " she said .

= = Composition = =

Musically , " Speechless " is a rock power ballad with influences of 1970s rock , blues rock , glam rock with a slight element of country music as well . The song 's musical style has drawn comparisons to David Bowie during the Ziggy Stardust era , Queen and Pink . It consists of vocal harmonies and guitar riffs which , according to PopMatters , are comparable to the work of Freddie Mercury and Queen . " Speechless " was recorded at Record Plant Studios , Los Angeles , California with all live instruments , such as drums , guitars and bass with Gaga playing piano and she described the recording process as " that really organic , delicious feeling " . Along with the production works , Fair also did the arrangement and conduction for the recording , while Tal Herzberg played bass guitar and did the audio engineering of the track with Frank Wolff . Other musicians included Abraham Laboriel Jr. who played drums and John Goux on guitar . " Speechless " was mixed by Jack Joseph Puig while the audio mastering was done at Oasis Mastering , Burbank , California , by Gene Grimaldi . Personnel assisting the recording included Ryan Kennedy , Tal Oz and Joe Cory . " Speechless " is set in the time signature of common time , with a tempo of 76 beats per minute . It is composed in the key of C major , with Gaga 's vocal range spanning between the high note of C5 to the low note of G3 . The song has a basic sequence of C ? G / B ? Am ? G ? F as its chord progression .

= = Critical reception = =

" Speechless " received mixed reviews from critics . Kitty Empire of The Observer gave a negative review of the song , noting that ballads are Gaga 's " weak point " . Evan Sawdey of PopMatters noted similarities between the song and the music of Queen , adding , " Although the resulting tune doesn 't have the same driving oomph of a peak @-@ era Queen number , the imitation is admirable if not just for the fact that it manages to rub shoulders with such sacred company without once feeling like a gimmick . " Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine called the song the lone " dud " from The Fame Monster , " not because it 's a bad song or poorly performed , but because , like on The Fame , when [ Gaga ] does try to show her softer side , it comes off as a fraud ? at least alongside the rest of her material . " Stephen Thomas Erlewine from Allmusic felt that the song had a " galvanized Eurotrash finish " to it , comparing the guitar playing in the song to the work of Noel Gallagher , the lead guitarist of Oasis .

= = Chart performance = =

Although it has not been released as a single , " Speechless " debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 chart at ninety @-@ four for the week of December 12 , 2009 . After the medley performance of the song at the 2010 Grammy Awards , " Speechless " topped the Billboard Hot Singles Sales chart , with sales of 7 @,@ 000 units according to Nielsen Soundscan , becoming Gaga 's third number @-@ one single on this chart . It also shifted an additional 13 @,@ 000 digital downloads to bubble under the main Hot Digital Songs chart . As of August 2010 , the song has sold 197 @,@ 000 downloads according to Nielsen Soundscan . " Speechless " also debuted on the Billboard Canadian Hot 100 at sixty @-@ seven on the same issue . On the UK Singles Chart , " Speechless " entered the chart at number 106 , due to downloads from The Fame Monster . It left the chart the following week but re @-@ entered at number eighty @-@ eight for the week of December 27 , 2009 .

= = Live performances = =

" Speechless " was performed for the first time at the 30th anniversary celebration for the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art on November 14 , 2009 . Gaga performed the song on and at a pink Steinway & Sons piano decorated with painted @-@ on butterflies . The song was performed while ballet dancers from the Bolshoi Theatre , who danced alongside Gaga in a performance art number directed by artist Francesco Vezzoli and members of Russia 's Bolshoi Ballet Academy , titled " The Shortest Musical You Will Never See Again . " It was performed at the 2009 American Music Awards . She coupled it with " Bad Romance " from The Fame Monster . Gaga was dressed in a flesh @-@ colored bodysuit wrapped with white piping , embedded with flashing lights imitating ribs and a spine . The performance started with " Bad Romance " ; then she segued into " Speechless " by using her microphone stand to break open a glass box with a piano inside . She sat on the piano bench and began the performance , while her piano caught on fire . Throughout the song , she continued to smash liquor bottles on the piano . Both " Bad Romance " and " Speechless " were performed at The Ellen DeGeneres Show on November 25 , 2009 . Gaga performed the song at the Royal Variety Performance , which was attended by Queen Elizabeth II . Gaga wore a red PVC dress inspired by the Elizabethan era , and played a piano suspended ten feet in the air that was supported by stilts . The piano was inspired by the giant elephants in Salvador Dalí 's 1946 painting , The Temptation of St. Anthony .

Gaga performed the song during The Monster Ball Tour . On the tour 's first show in Montreal , Quebec , Canada , her father was in attendance , and the song came after a cabaret performance of " Poker Face " with a freestyle rap from Kid Cudi . She wore a dress with black shoulder pads and a black mask . T 'Cha Dunlevy for The Gazette noted that the performance was lacking ? " The elements are there but they haven 't all been brought together " ? adding that the show never reached its peak until the end , when Gaga performed the " real rendition " of " Poker Face " and " Bad Romance " . " Better late than never , " Dunlevy concluded . However Jane Stevenson from

Toronto Star called the performance as the emotional high point of the show . On December 8 , 2009 , Gaga performed the song live at the launch party of Vevo in New York . The musical accompaniment consisted only of Gaga on piano . Gaga opened the 52nd Grammy Awards telecast with a performance of " Poker Face " , immediately followed by a piano duet with Elton John of " Speechless " in a medley with " Your Song " . In May 2011 , Gaga performed a jazz version of the song during Radio 1 's Big Weekend in Carlisle , Cumbria .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from The Fame Monster album liner notes .

= = Charts = =