

= Angel (Madonna song) =

" Angel " is a song by American singer Madonna from her second studio album Like a Virgin (1984) . It was released on April 10 , 1985 by Sire Records as the third single from the album . Written by Madonna and Steve Bray , it was one of the first songs developed for the project and , according to Madonna , was inspired by a girl who is saved by an angel , and she falls in love with him . " Angel " was released as a 12 " single with " Into the Groove " in some countries and charted likewise . A music video was initially planned for the release , but was later cancelled . Instead a promotional video comprising clips from her previous videos was released in the United Kingdom .

Musically " Angel " consists of three chord ascending hook , which serves for the verse and chorus . It has vocal harmonies beneath the main chorus and the lyrics repeat the angel @-@ like image of Madonna 's saviour . Critical response to the song was mixed , with some music critics calling it a classic and others deeming it sub @-@ par compared to Madonna 's previous singles . " Angel " became the singer 's fifth consecutive top @-@ five single on the Billboard Hot 100 and reached the top of its dance charts . It was also able to reach number @-@ one in Australia and the top @-@ five of the charts in Canada , Ireland , Japan , New Zealand , Spain and the United Kingdom . Madonna has performed the song only once , on The Virgin Tour in 1985 .

= = Background = =

" Angel " was written by Madonna and Steve Bray and released worldwide on April 10 , 1985 . Madonna explained to Bray that she wanted a stronger , more pop @-@ oriented album , hence the songs should reflect that . One of the first songs that they developed was " Angel " . Madonna commented that the song was about a girl , who was " in depression over something . An angel appeared and healed her soul , making her fall madly in love with Him . [...] It 's something that I felt when I was young . I thought it would make for an interesting story if I wrote that [experience] as a song on my record . " The song was recorded as early as April 1984 , but the whole project was held off , much to Madonna 's frustration , by the continuing sales of her self @-@ titled debut album , which had by then sold over a million copies in United States . She had decided to release " Angel " as the initial single from the album , but changed her mind , after the recording of the title track " Like a Virgin " was complete . " Angel " was ultimately released as the third single , and included the song " Into the Groove " , from Madonna 's 1985 film Desperately Seeking Susan , on the B @-@ side of the 12 @-@ inch maxi @-@ single .

Madonna had initially planned to release a music video for " Angel " , but later decided to go against it , as at that time , there were already five Madonna music videos on @-@ rotation in the music channels and were being broadcast continuously . Hence , Warner Bros. and Madonna felt that adding another video to the already saturated channels , might not be in her favour . A promotional video , containing scenes from the music videos of " Burning Up " , " Borderline " , " Lucky Star " , " Like a Virgin " and " Material Girl " was made by Warner Bros. Records and aired in the United Kingdom . The video was included on the promotional @-@ only video compilations It 's That Girl and She 's Breathless .

= = Composition = =

" Angel " begins with a laugh and an echo , panning from left to the right . The song is built on an ascending hook consisting of three chord sequence , which serves for the verse and chorus . It consists of a constant 8th rhythm throughout the song , making it sound similar to the songs of the band Machine . Vocal harmonies are also added beneath the main chorus . It is a two @-@ bar phrase song , and laughter is again added as the song slowly fades out . Madonna sings in her lower register at the beginning , and shifts to the higher one in the line " I can see it in your e @-@ e @-@ e @-@ eyye @-@ e @-@ s " . The line was taken from the song " Death Disco " (1979) , by the British musical group Public Image Ltd . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com , by Alfred Publishing , the song is set in the time signature of common time , with a

medium tempo of 120 beats per minute . It is composed in the key of G major , with Madonna 's voice spanning from the high @-@ note of G3 to the low @-@ note of B4 . The song has a basic sequence of Dm7 ? Em7 ? F ? Dm7 ? Em7 ? F as its chord progression . The lyrics continuously repeat the angel @-@ like image of Madonna 's saviour .

= = Critical reception = =

Rikky Rooksby , author of *Madonna : The Complete Guide to Her Music* , commented that " Angel " is a song " that is less than even the sum of its parts . " Santiago Fouz @-@ Hernández and Freya Jarman @-@ Ivens , authors of *Madonna 's Drowned Worlds : New Approaches to Her Cultural Transformations* , felt that " the pizzicato synthesizer line that opens ' Angel ' was indeed classical Madonna . " John Leland from *Spin* called it a rehash of Madonna 's previous single " Lucky Star " (1984) , with " an even lamer melody and punch . [...] ' Angel ' is Nile Rodgers doing what he does best : turning crass product into cash product . " Stephen Thomas Erlewine from *Allmusic* called the song " an excellent standard @-@ issue dance @-@ pop . " Sal Cinquemani from *Slant Magazine* called the song sugary . While reviewing the album in 1995 , Dave Karger from *Entertainment Weekly* felt that the song comes off as a bit repetitious and immature . Alfred Soto of *Stylus Magazine* commented that " ' Angel ' is a particular stunner , certainly the apex of Rodgers ' post @-@ Chic skills . [...] It does a better job than the two big singles of delineating the boundaries of Madonna 's determined shallowness , an act that confounds Philistines today and made the appreciation of her musical skills a lot harder than it took these critics to dismiss Cyndi Lauper as the real charlatan . " Nancy Erlich from *Billboard* called the song " romantic , uncontroversial techno @-@ pop . [...] [Madonna 's] reign continues as ' 85 's premier media obsession . "

= = Chart performance = =

After its release , " Angel " debuted on the *Billboard* Hot 100 at number 48 on the issue dated April 27 , 1985 , while her previous single " Crazy for You " was at number @-@ two on the chart . After ten weeks , " Angel " reached a peak position of five on the chart . The song tied Madonna with Olivia Newton @-@ John , as the female artist with the most consecutive top @-@ five hits on the Hot 100 at that time . " Angel " debuted on the *Adult Contemporary* chart for the issue dated May 11 , 1985 , and reached a peak of five . The song debuted at number 40 on the *Hot Dance Club Songs* chart on June 1 , 1985 , and reached the top after three weeks . It also charted on a number of *Billboard* charts , such as reaching the top of the *Hot Dance Singles Sales* and the *Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs* chart at position 71 . On July 30 , 1985 , " Angel " and " Into the Groove " were together certified gold by the *Recording Industry Association of America* (RIAA) for the shipment of one million copies across United States ? the requirement for a gold single prior to 1989 . It was the first 12 @-@ inch single to be certified gold , since Frankie Smith 's " Double Dutch Bus " (1981) . " Angel / Into the Groove " placed at number 81 on the year @-@ end chart for 1985 , with Madonna becoming the top pop artist for the year .

In Canada , the song debuted at number 80 on the *RPM* issue dated May 4 , 1985 . After eight weeks , the song reached a peak of five on the chart . " Angel " was present on the chart for 25 weeks and ranked at number 56 on the 1985 *RPM* Year @-@ end chart . The song was released in the United Kingdom with " Burning Up " as its B @-@ Side , and debuted at number ten on the *UK Singles Chart* on September 9 , 1985 . It reached a peak of five next week , and was present for a total of 12 weeks on the chart . The song was certified silver by the *British Phonographic Industry* (BPI) for the shipment of 250 @,@ 000 copies of the single across United Kingdom . According to the *Official Charts Company* , the song has sold 205 @,@ 000 copies there . In Australia , " Angel " charted as a combined single with " Into the Groove " and reached the top of the *Kent Music Report* chart . It was the second highest selling single of 1985 in Australia . The song reached the top 20 in the charts of Belgium , Ireland , Netherlands , New Zealand , Spain , Switzerland and the *Eurochart Hot 100 Singles* .

= = Live performance = =

The song was performed as part of Madonna 's 1985 Virgin Tour ; it was the fifth song of the setlist . Madonna wore a blue see @-@ through crop @-@ top , revealing her characteristic black bra . She also had lacy leggings and crucifixes around an ear and her neck . As she finished the vigorous performance of " Everybody " , the lights were dimmed and the introduction music of the song started . Rotating lights fell on the stage . Madonna appeared sitting on top of the stairs and gradually descended . During the intermediate bridge , she and her dancers moved energetically around the whole stage , as white balloons fell on them from above . Madonna continued singing as the lights were dimmed again . She finished the performance and disappeared behind the wings for a costume change . " Angel " did not appear in the final home video release Madonna Live : The Virgin Tour .

= = Track listing and formats = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Madonna ? writer , vocals , background vocals
Steve Bray ? writer
Nile Rodgers ? producer , guitars
Jimmy Bralower ? drum programming
Rob Sabino ? bass synthesizer , assorted synthesizers
Curtis King ? background vocals
Frank Simms ? background vocals
George Simms ? background vocals
Herb Ritts ? photography
Jeri McManus ? design
Credits adapted from the album 's liner notes .

= = Charts and certifications = =