

= Hurt : The EP =

Hurt : The EP is the first EP by British singer @-@ songwriter Leona Lewis . It was released on 9 December 2011 by Syco Music and RCA Records . The EP served as something to bridge the gap for her fans whilst she finished recording her third studio album Glassheart (2012) . The album was supposed to be released in November 2011 , but was delayed to March 2012 , and again to November 2012 . Lewis 's reason for delaying the album was because after she met producer Fraser T Smith , the singer wanted to collaborate on new material for possible inclusion on Glassheart . As a result , Smith also produced Hurt : The EP . The EP consists of three cover versions : " Hurt " by Nine Inch Nails ; " Iris " by the Goo Goo Dolls and " Colorblind " by Counting Crows . Musically , the songs are influenced by rock music , whilst the lyrics revolve around feeling pain .

Hurt : The EP garnered a mixed response from music critics . Lewis 's interpretations were both praised and criticised ; some critics described her vocal performance as " spine @-@ chilling " and a " compelling beauty " , whilst others cited that it was too formulaic . The EP peaked at number seven in Scotland , number eight in the United Kingdom and number 15 in Ireland on those countries ' albums charts . To promote Hurt : The EP , Lewis performed " Hurt " on the eighth series finale of The X Factor and the Royal Variety Performance in the United Kingdom , and performed " Run " on the first season finale of US The X Factor .

= = Background and development = =

Shortly after her The Labyrinth arena tour ended in July 2010 , Lewis began to work on her third studio album . It was reported that Simon Cowell had set a deadline for Lewis to complete the album for a summer 2011 release . After originally having been given a release date of 28 November 2011 , Glassheart was pushed back to March 2012 . Lewis 's reason for delaying the release of the album was that after she met producer Fraser T Smith , she wanted to collaborate with him on new material for possible inclusion on Glassheart . Lewis delayed the release of the album a third time , with Glassheart set for release on 26 November 2012 . As a result of her fans having to wait until November 2012 , a year after the album was originally set to be released , Lewis decided to release an extended play entitled Hurt : The EP , as something to " bridge the gap " while she recorded new material .

Hurt : The EP consists of three covers : " Hurt " by Nine Inch Nails , " Iris " by the Goo Goo Dolls and " Colorblind " by Counting Crows . The EP was produced by Smith . In an interview for In : Demand , Lewis explained why she chose to record the songs , saying that she thought female interpretations of them would provide a " powerful perspective " , because of how the originals were sung by male vocalists . Lewis stated that she chose to record " Iris " and " Colorblind " due to how she " loved " the songs after listening to them for the first time , and added that the latter has a " beautiful lyric " . The EP was only made available to purchase digitally , and it was released in Canada , Ireland and the United Kingdom on 9 December 2011 to download via iTunes . It was also made available to purchase on Amazon.co.uk on 11 December 2011 . Hurt : The EP was released in the United States on 17 January 2012 . The US track listing consists of " Hurt " , " Iris " and " Colorblind " , as well as a single mix of Lewis 's cover of " Run " . It was also made available to purchase on Amazon.com on the same day .

= = Composition and critical reception = =

Hurt : The EP garnered a mixed response from music critics . Lewis Corner for Digital Spy was complimentary of Lewis 's rock song interpretations . He wrote that that the title track , which contains lyrics about heroin addiction , displays the singer 's " emotive tones " on which she sings in " spine @-@ chilling " falsetto notes . He continued to write that " Hurt " has a " compelling beauty " and " haunting quality " . Corner cited her cover of " Iris " as a " surprise highlight " , writing that she quivers the lyrics " And I don 't want the world to see me / ' Cause I don 't think that they 'd

understand , " over a piano . He described " Colorblind " ' s composition as a " symphony of strings . " Rhetta Akamatsu for The Times of India wrote that Lewis 's renditions were " powerful " and " spectacular " . Akamatsu described " Hurt " as a song which features " chills and thrills as the rawness of the lyrics meets the purity of Lewis 's voice . " She also noted that Lewis 's version is not based on the arrangement of the original by Nine Inch Nails , but rather that of Johnny Cash 's cover , which was included on his 2002 album American IV : The Man Comes Around . Akamatsu concluded her review of the songs with " All three performances feature intense , literate lyrics and are well @-@ suited to Lewis 's style . "

Priya Elan for NME was critical of Lewis 's execution of the song " Hurt " , writing that she sounds as though the singer took " too much Night Nurse the evening before . " Elan noted that the composition of " Hurt " was similar to that of Lewis 's cover of " Run " , writing " there 's an awful lot of layered build up to the chorus before a full band and orchestra come in during the second verse . " However , Elan concluded her review saying that although she appears not to know the legacy of the song , Lewis sounds " pretty " . Katherine St. Asaph for PopDust described Lewis 's interpretation of " Hurt " as being formulaic like a " template " , writing that it is something that American Idol and The X Factor winners and contestants seem do when covering a song . St. Asaph continued to explain her opinions with regard to Lewis and " Hurt " , writing " For Leona , that 's big notes in bigger arrangements , with a couple hushed sections for contrast . " She was also skeptical of Lewis 's emotive abilities , writing " Either she knows that quiet @-@ to @-@ loud arrangements and whispered vocals can simulate gravitas pretty well regardless of whether you ? re thinking of pain or grocery lists , or she ? s genuinely feeling something that comes out in her voice . "

Due to the mixed response " Hurt " received from fans and critics alike , Lewis defended her decision to record the song in an interview with BBC Radio 1 , saying " People write music and the music is out there for people to interpret it how they want to ... As long as it 's coming from a genuine place . I actually am a big fan of that song and a big fan of the Johnny Cash cover . But that song in particular really speaks to me . Lyrically it 's a song that is very intense and has painful lyrics . It 's reflective of a place where I was at . When I recorded it , it was healing to get it out . "

= = Promotion = =

As part of promotion for Hurt : The EP , Lewis performed " Hurt " on the eighth series finale of The X Factor on 10 December 2011 . The performance saw Lewis sing at Wembley Arena wearing a red full length dress . Katherine St. Asaph for Popdust was critical of Lewis 's interpretation of " Hurt " on The X Factor , writing " It 's written right into the X Factor contract that in order to consent to being televised , you must permanently forfeit all ability to feel pain or any other emotion , making it somewhat difficult to interpret a song . " The following week , Lewis performed " Hurt " at the 2011 Royal Variety Performance . Lewis held a competition for people to submit dress designs for her performance , with the singer wearing a black and beige coloured gown designed by winner Lilyana Maslenishka . Lewis also performed " Somebody to Love " with Cee Lo Green , a tribute to British rock band Queen . The show was recorded on 5 December 2011 in Manchester , and aired on 13 December . Lewis performed an acoustic version of " Hurt " during a live webcam chat with her fans via Ustream , which was uploaded to her official YouTube account on 16 December 2011 . In the United States , Lewis performed " Run " on the first season finale of The X Factor USA on 22 December 2011 , whilst a montage of highlights of the season were screened behind her . Season one judge Nicole Scherzinger was complimentary of Lewis 's performance , saying " Leona blessed us with her beautiful voice . "

= = Track listing = =

= = Personnel = =

Credits adapted from the American Society of Composers , Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and Broadcast Music (BMI) .

= = Charts = =

Although a three track EP , Hurt : The EP charted on national singles charts . It debuted at number 15 in Ireland on 15 December 2011 . The following week , it dropped to number 45 . Hurt : The EP debuted and peaked at number eight on the UK Singles Chart on 24 December 2011 . The EP attained at number seven position on the UK Digital Chart . In Scotland , the EP debuted and peaked at number seven on 24 December 2011 .

= = Release history = =