

= Thunder ( Leona Lewis song ) =

" Thunder " is a song by British singer and songwriter Leona Lewis from her fifth studio album , I Am ( 2015 ) . The song was written by Lewis and Toby Gad , who also produced the track . Lyrically , " Thunder " is about finding the strength to pick yourself up after falling on difficult times . Lewis explained that the song is about self @-@ reflection and self @-@ empowerment and finding the ability to look within in order to decide what is best to do next . Def Jam released " Thunder " on 24 July 2015 as the lead single in United States , but it is the third single to be released from the album overall . Remixes by Danny Verde and Tom Swoon were also released .

The track garnered a positive response from music critics , many of whom complimented its powerful and anthemic stance and declared it an album highlight . One critic believed the lyrics to be directed at Simon Cowell , Lewis ' former label boss . " Thunder " reached the top thirty on the U.S. Billboard Adult Contemporary and Adult Pop Songs charts , and the top twenty on the Dance Club Songs chart . The song 's accompanying music video shows Lewis in a variety of outdoor spaces as clips of varying weather patterns are intercut . She has performed the track on several U.S. television shows , including Good Morning America , The Late Late Show with James Corden and The Talk .

= = Background and release = =

" Thunder " was written by Leona Lewis and Toby Gad , with the latter producing the track , for Lewis ' fifth studio album , I Am ( 2015 ) . It was published by ASCAP and Atlas Music publishings ( on behalf of itself and Gadfly Songs ( ASCAP ) . ) Recorded and mixed by Gad at Kite Music Studios in Los Angeles , Lewis provided all of the vocals for " Thunder " and Gad performed all of the instrumentation and programming . The track 's audio was mastered by Tom Coyne at Sterling Sound studios in New York City , with assistance from Randy Merrill . For the acoustic version of " Thunder " , Lewis ' additional vocals were recorded by Adam Lunn at Wendy House Studios in London . On 30 June 2015 , Lewis released a three @-@ minute teaser video with snippets of the title track , " Ladders , and " Power " . Media site Idolator exclusively premiered the full length version " Thunder " on 16 July . Lewis told Idolator " ' Thunder ' is a song that is so close to my heart . I wrote it about the strength of rising after the fall and I ? m thankful to be able share it . " In an interview for Next Magazine , Lewis further elucidated upon the songs meaning : " It was like coming from a place where you ? ve been through a hard situation that has really made you reflect or look deep inside to figure out what it is that you want to do next , " said Lewis . " I had that breakthrough where now I feel strong in what I ? m doing and strong in my decisions . I ? m back and I ? m ready to go for it . ?

The third overall single to be released from I Am following " Fire Under My Feet " and the title track , " Thunder " served as the lead single for the album 's release in the United States and was not released in the United Kingdom . It was subsequently released to download digitally in the U.S. on 24 July 2015 . Three days later , it was sent to Hot / Modern / Adult contemporary radio stations across the country . A remix of " Thunder " by Danny Verde was released on 11 September 2015 , while another by Tom Swoon was later released on 25 September . The Danny Verde remix was also released in Australia , France , Germany , New Zealand and the United Kingdom on 28 September . Despite initial claims that " Thunder " would not be released in the UK , it will be added to BBC Radio 2 's C @-@ list playlist on 24 October 2015 .

= = Composition = =

Lyrically , " Thunder " is a ballad about finding the " strength of rising after the fall " and follows the self @-@ empowerment theme of the album . The song begins with the lyrics " First it was heaven , ev 'rything roses and fire , " and she later proclaims " I ? m coming back with the thunder . " Lewis projects a stance of empowerment as she performs the line " With an empty heart , I am free again " over a " striding " beat accompanied by a piano . Angela Wilson of Vibe described the track as " a

celebratory salute to self love " and highlighted the lines " And I won't wait any longer / When you let me down , I got stronger , " as empowering . Will Hodgkinson of The Times thought that " Thunder " was about her former record label boss and friend Simon Cowell , writing that the lyrics " I won't wait any longer , when you let me down I got stronger , " was Lewis ' way of saying " Check me out now , you high @-@ waisted berk . " The song , in the key of B major , has a tempo of 92 beats per minute . Lewis ' voice spans more than two octaves , from F 3 to G 5 .

= = Reception = =

Stephen Thomas Erlewine thought that " Thunder " and " Fire Under My Feet " were some of Lewis 's " strongest compositions " to date , and added that they are " sharply crafted and passionate " . Digital Spy writer Lewis Corner thought that while Lewis does not appear to have reinvented her sound , her new sense of passion " leads the tried and tested formula with a hefty charge " . He listed " Thunder " in his top four tracks to download from I Am , along with " Another Love Song , " Power " and " I Got You " . Both Kathy Iandoli and Robbie Daw of Idolator praised " Thunder " : the former described the track as " equally anthemic " as " Fire Under My Feet " while the latter wrote that it is a " soulful , soaring ballad " which , as with many of Lewis ' songs , is difficult not to get immersed in with its strong emotional sentiment . Knoxville News Sentinel writer Chuck Campbell highlighted it as one of the albums many great tracks , writing " Lewis lassoes the rumbling beat of opener ' Thunder ' to announce her return ? and she ? s off from there . " Next Magazine writer Benjamin Lindsay picked " Thunder " as a " standout " song on I Am , along with " Fire Under My Feet " , " The Essence of Me " and " You Knew Me When " . In the United States , " Thunder " peaked at number 29 on the Billboard Adult Contemporary chart for one week . It peaked at number 25 on the Adult Pop Songs chart and spent seven weeks charting , and number 12 on the Dance Club Songs chart . It has also peaked at number 21 in Hungary , number 98 in the Czech Republic and number 100 in Slovakia .

= = Promotion = =

During her promotional tour of the U.S. , Lewis performed an acoustic version of " Thunder " for B96 Chicago radio station on 15 July 2015 . On 13 August , she performed a mini set list for iHeartRadio where she was also interviewed . Lewis started with " Bleeding Love " , followed by a cover of Jason Derulo 's single " Want to Want Me " . For her rendition of " Thunder " , the host Kevin Hart bet Lewis \$ 5 to add " Leona Lewis " to the beginning of her performance in the style of how Derulo sings his name on his songs . Lewis obliged , and won the bet . The same day , Lewis released the music video for " Thunder " . It shows the singer in various open outdoor spaces as clips of rolling clouds and rays of sunshine are intercut . Vibe writer Angela Wilson described its " simplistic " theme as " the perfect visual for the uplifting track " . On 14 September , Lewis performed " Thunder " live on Good Morning America in New York City as part of their Fall Concert Series . Bianca Gracie of Idolator wrote that Lewis performed the track with " her always @-@ stunning vocals " . On September 21 , the singer sang the track on The Late Late Show with James Corden . Two days later , Lewis appeared on The Talk where she was interviewed about I Am and once again performed " Thunder " . The song was included on her I Am Tour .

= = Track listings = =

- " Thunder " ( Album version ) ? 3 : 43
- " Thunder " ( Acoustic album version ) ? 3 : 17
- " Thunder " ( Danny Verde remix ) ? 5 : 55
- " Thunder " ( Tom Swoon remix ) ? 3 : 17

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =