

= Love Story (Taylor Swift song) =

" Love Story " is a song performed by American singer @-@ songwriter Taylor Swift . The song was written by Swift and produced by Nathan Chapman , alongside Swift . It was released on September 12 , 2008 by Big Machine Records , as the lead single from Swift 's second studio album Fearless (2008) . The song was written about a love interest of Swift 's who was not popular among Swift 's family and friends . Because of the scenario , Swift related to the plot of William Shakespeare 's Romeo and Juliet (1597) and used it as a source of inspiration to compose the song . However , she replaced Romeo and Juliet 's original tragic conclusion with a happy ending . It is a midtempo song with a dreamy soprano voice , while the melody continually builds . The lyrics are from the perspective of Juliet .

The song was a critical success with critics complimenting Swift 's writing style and the song 's plot . It was also a commercial success , selling over 8 million copies worldwide , therefore establishing itself among the best @-@ selling singles of all time . In the United States , the song peaked at number four on the Billboard Hot 100 and sold over 5 @.@ 8 million paid digital downloads , becoming Swift 's best @-@ selling single to date and the best @-@ selling download by a female country solo artist . It is also one of the best @-@ selling singles in the United States and was once the best @-@ selling digital country single of all time there . The single was certified 8 × Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) . Internationally , " Love Story " became Swift 's first number one single in Australia , followed by " Shake It Off " in 2014 . The song has been certified triple platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) . The song is one of the best @-@ selling singles worldwide , with worldwide sales of more than 8 millions of units (according to the IFPI) .

The song 's accompanying music video was directed by Trey Fanjoy , who directed the majority of Swift 's prior videos . The video is a period piece that drew influences from the Medieval , Renaissance , and British Regency (1813) eras . It follows Swift and model Justin Gaston as they meet in a university campus and imagine themselves in a prior era . " Love Story " was promoted through numerous live performances . The song was included on Swift 's first , second , third , and fourth headlining tours , the Fearless Tour (2009 ? 10) , the Speak Now World Tour (2011 ? 12) , the Red Tour (2013 ? 14) , and the 1989 World Tour (2015) respectively . " Love Story " has been covered by several artists , including Joe McElderry and Forever the Sickest Kids .

= = Writing and inspiration = =

" Love Story " came along late into the production of Fearless . Swift wrote " Love Story " about a man who was never officially her boyfriend . When she introduced him to her family and friends , they did not become fond of him . " His situation was a little complicated , but I didn 't care " , said Swift . Swift also felt like it was the first time she could relate to the plot of William Shakespeare 's Romeo and Juliet (1597) , one of her favorite narratives , which she described as , " The only people who wanted them to be together were them . " She conceived the idea for the song when she reflected about the scenario : " I thought , ' This is difficult but it 's real , it matters ? it 's not simple or easy but it 's real ' . " She then centered the song on the line , which was ultimately placed in the " Love Story " 's second refrain . All events , with the exclusion of the end , narrated in the song regarded Swift 's actual story . The song 's conclusion differed from that of Romeo and Juliet . " I feel like they had such promise and they were so crazy for each other . And if that had just gone a little bit differently , it could have been the best love story ever told . And it is one of the best love stories ever told , but it 's a tragedy . " Instead , she chose to write a happy ending . She took her favorite characters and conceptualized the ending she believed they deserved . She perceived it to be the ideal ending that girls hoped for , including herself . " You want a guy who doesn 't care what anyone thinks , what anyone says . " Although it was fictional , Swift said it was an enjoyable experience to write about . Swift wrote the track on her bedroom floor in approximately twenty minutes , feeling too inspired to put the song down unfinished .

Swift and her love interest continued their relationship , but then went their separate ways because

it was hard for them to see each other . To Swift , the song resembles much optimism regarding love and how encountering the right person could surpass skepticism . She deemed " Love Story " one of her most romantic songs , although she was never in an official relationship with the subject of the song . In retrospect , Swift said about the song , " It ? s about a love that you 've got to hide because for whatever reason it wouldn 't go over well . I spun it in the direction of Romeo and Juliet . Our parents are fighting . I relate to it more as a love that you cannot really elaborate on ? a love that maybe society wouldn 't accept [or] maybe your friends wouldn 't accept . "

= = Recording = =

" Love Story " was recorded in March 2008 at Blackbird Studios in Nashville , Tennessee , alongside record producer Nathan Chapman and various personnel . Chapman produced all but one song on Swift 's 2006 eponymous debut album , Taylor Swift , and co @-@ produced all songs on Fearless . Swift sang into an Avantone CV @-@ 12 multi @-@ pattern tube microphone , manufactured by Avant Electronics . The microphone had a new old stock tube that was designed and built by country singer , record producer , and audio engineer Ray Kennedy for Chapman . Chapman had received the microphone from Kennedy as a loan , as a " try this for a while " experiment . Although he previously had tested numerous microphones on Swift , he had not been able to find one to match her voice perfectly . When Swift came to Chapman 's home to record a radio edit for one of the singles from Taylor Swift , she immediately grew fond of the microphone . " When she put on the headphones and said , ' Test , ' completely unprompted , she said , ' This is my mic . I love this mic . I just wanna use this one from now on ! ' She had no idea what it was , just loved it , and I went along with something that felt right for her . We 've been using it ever since , and it sounds great on her voice , " Chapman said .

" Love Story " was recorded with Pro Tools and tracking vocals , which Swift sang live with the band . The band consisted of acoustic guitars , bass guitars , and drums . All other instruments were overdubbed by Chapman . He said , " I think there are nine acoustic guitars on that track , and I stacked several background vocals ? me singing , ' Ah 's ' . " Audio engineering was executed by Chad Carlson in Blackbird Studios ' Studio D , with the usage of the API Legacy Plus equipments : Avantone CV @-@ 12 , Neve 1073 , and Tube @-@ Tech CL @-@ 1B . Audio mixing done by Justin Niebank and was set in Studio F , with the usage of the console Solid State Logic 9080 K series and Genelec 1032 console . In between , overdubs were executed in Studio E by Chapman . " Love Story " , along with the rest of the album , was mastered by Hank Williams at MasterMix Studios in Nashville , Tennessee . The song was mixed for mainstream airplay by Chapman . He pulled Niebank 's stems into his Mac OS laptop and used Apple Logic to create the pop version . Chapman made mix tweaks and created new elements with his laptop . In order to do so , he muted the country instruments and replaced them with new elements characteristic to pop music , replacing banjo and fiddle with electric guitar . The pop version 's opening beat is a Logic loop in the Ultrabeat beat generator . All the new electric guitars were done with the Amplitube Stomp I / O .

= = Composition = =

" Love Story " is a country pop song with a length of three minutes and 54 seconds . It is set in common time and has a moderate tempo of 120 beats per minute . It is written in the key of D major and Swift 's vocals span one octave , from A3 to B4 . Swift croons " Love Story " softly and sweetly , with a slight twang . It follows the chord progression D (add) 9 ? Asus4 ? Bm ? G69 . The song is of a swirling and dreamy tenor . The melody is simple , containing a rushy pace which continually grows and concludes with a key change to E major .

The lyrics of " Love Story " are written in first person , in which Swift refers to herself as the Romeo and Juliet character Juliet Capulet and her love interest as Romeo Montague . Fraser McAlpine of the BBC described the song as a narrative , in which Swift is the narrator . The song 's plot revolves a youthful romance foiled by parental disapproval . In the end , love prevails and the couple finds their " happily ever after " . The first verse introduces the characters at a ball , where they meet . In

the second verse , the story transitions to the couple sneaking about after dark and references Nathaniel Hawthorne 's The Scarlet Letter (1850) . The song 's refrains have Swift waiting for her love interest to appear : " Romeo , take me somewhere we can be alone / I 'll be waiting / All there 's left to do is run . " The song 's final refrain has Swift narrating from Romeo 's perspective and proposing marriage to Swift .

= = Critical reception = =

" Love Story " was highly acclaimed by critics upon release . Kate Kiefer of Paste magazine recognized the song to be Swift 's best and added that once the lyrics are learned , it is impossible to not sing along . Sean Dooley of About.com credited the song for transitioning Swift from a " fresh @-@ faced star to crossover superstar " . Dooley attributed the song 's commercial success due to her departure from her past lyrical themes , which summarized " I wish this boy knew how I really felt about him ? . While reviewing Fearless , Dooley selected " Love Story " as one of the best tracks on the album . Jonathan Keefe of Slant Magazine admired how Swift attempted to incorporate sophisticated elements , like Romeo and Juliet and The Scarlet Letter , although it was not successful because of its awkwardness , inexplicable nature , and pointless conceit . Keefe credited its success to its prominent hook . James Reed of The Boston Globe thought otherwise , stating Swift 's charm was in her songwriting skills .

Fraser McAlpine of the BBC stated , " ' Love Story ' is a stunning pop song and , because it really does tell a love story , it 's heart @-@ warming and draws the listener into the exciting and romantic fairytale world . " However , she felt Swift 's vocal performance was not incredible , but was passionate to complement the song 's sentiments . McAlpine resumed by stating that " Love Story " , although obvious , a bit dramatic , and probably targeted towards younger audiences , was just lovely and that Swift proved herself a true princess of pop with the song . Chris Neal of Country Weekly called " Love Story " an " ebullient first hit . " Deborah Evans Price of Billboard magazine gave the single a favorable review and called it an " enchanting offering " . Price noted that " Love Story " demonstrates one of Swift 's appeals , her writing and singing of age @-@ appropriate material that can be both relatable to her audience and others . As a result , she predicted the song would have much commercial success in the country music industry . Alex Macpherson of British newspaper The Guardian described the song to be fueled by a " joyous rush " that , according to him , was later replicated by Swift 's own single " Mine " (2010) . Taste of Country listed the song at number 17 on its list of greatest country songs of all time .

= = Awards and nominations = =

At the 35th People 's Choice Awards , " Love Story " was nominated for the People 's Choice Award for " Favorite Country " , but lost to Carrie Underwood 's " Last Name " (2008) . The song was nominated for " Fave Song " at the Nickelodeon Australian Kids ' Choice Awards 2009 , but lost to The Black Eyed Peas ' " I Gotta Feeling " (2009) and received the same outcome at the 2009 Teen Choice Awards , when it lost the nomination for " Choice Music : Love Song " to David Archuleta 's " Crush " (2008) . In 2009 , " Love Story " was declared the " Country Song of the Year " by Broadcast Music Incorporated (BMI) .

= = Chart performance = =

= = North America = =

On the week @-@ ending September 27 , 2008 " Love Story " debuted at number sixteen on the Billboard Hot 100 , selling over 97 @,@ 000 digital downloads . In the succeeding week , " Love Story " ascended to a new peak at number five , selling 159 @,@ 000 . After two weeks in the top ten , on the week ending October 18 , 2008 , the track descended to number thirteen and remained

on the top twenty of the Billboard Hot 100 for eleven consecutive weeks , returning to the top ten , at number seven , on the week ending January 3 , 2009 . On the week ending January 17 , 2009 , the song reached its peak at number four on the chart , becoming Swift 's best charting single at the time . In the succeeding weeks , " Love Story " continued to sell strongly , spending fourteen weeks in the top ten and forty @-@ nine weeks in total . The single is one of thirteen songs from Fearless charted within the top forty of the Billboard Hot 100 , breaking the record for the most top forty entries from a single album . The single was certified eight times platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America , and had sold over 5 million by May 2011 . The song became Swift 's best @-@ selling single , and was once the best @-@ selling country single of all time (now overtaken by Lady Antebellum 's " Need You Now ") as well as the ninth best @-@ selling digital single of all time . As of July 2015 , " Love Story " has sold 5 @, @ 872 @, @ 000 copies in the United States .

" Love Story " reached number two in Billboard Radio Songs with 106 million all @-@ format audience impressions , being held from the top spot by Kanye West 's " Heartless " . On Billboard Hot Country Songs , " Love Story " debuted at number twenty @-@ five on the week @-@ ending September 27 , 2008 . The song jumped at the top ten on its fourth week at number nine and on its ninth week it reached the top spot , thus giving Swift her third number @-@ one song on Billboard Hot Country Songs and her fastest song to reach number one on the chart . It stayed at number one for two weeks and charted for a total of thirteen weeks on Billboard Hot Country Songs . On Billboard Pop Songs , the song debuted at thirty @-@ four on the week @-@ ending November 22 , 2008 . It reached the top spot on its fifteenth week , the week @-@ ending February 28 , 2009 , marking the highest peak by a country song on the chart since Shania Twain 's " You 're Still the One " peaked at number three in 1998 . " Love Story " also reached number one spot in Billboard Adult Contemporary and number three in Billboard Adult Pop Songs , and was able to appear Billboard Latin Pop Songs at number thirty @-@ five .

In Canada , " Love Story " entered at number eighty @-@ eight on the week ending October 18 , 2008 . It peaked at number four on the week ending November 29 , 2008 , became Swift 's first top ten hit in the said territory . The single stayed at the top ten for ten weeks and charted for fifty @-@ two weeks . It was placed at number eight on Canadian year @-@ end chart and was certified double platinum by Music Canada for sales of 160 @, @ 000 digital downloads .

= = = Europe and Oceania = = =

" Love Story " debuted at number twenty @-@ two in United Kingdom , on the week ending February 28 , 2009 . In the succeeding week , the song rose to its peak at number two , becoming Swift 's best @-@ charting single , along with later hits " I Knew You Were Trouble " and " Shake It Off " and first top ten in the United Kingdom . It spent seven weeks in the top ten and thirty @-@ two weeks in total on the chart . The single was certified platinum by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) for shipments exceeding 600 @, @ 000 copies . In October 22 , 2012 , Love Story charted again in United Kingdom at fifty @-@ five . In Ireland , " Love Story " peaked at number three . In mainland , the track peaked at number ten on the Eurochart Hot 100 Singles Chart , number six in Hungary , number seven in Norway , and at number ten in Sweden . It performed well in other countries , such as Denmark , Germany , Netherlands , and France , where it became a top twenty hit .

In Australia , " Love Story " debuted at number thirty @-@ eight on the week ending January 25 , 2009 . After two weeks of ascending on the chart , " Love Story " found a peak at number two , where it maintained for six consecutive weeks prior to reaching number one on the week ending March 29 , 2009 , becoming Swift 's first and only number one in the region until " Shake It Off " in 2014 . In the following week , the track descended again to number two , but rose to the top for a second and last week on the top fifty on the week ending April 12 , 2009 . The single was certified triple platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association for the shipment of over 210 @, @ 000 copies . " Love Story " was placed at number ten on the decade @-@ end Austrian Singles Chart . On the week ending February 2 , 2009 , " Love Story " entered in New Zealand at number thirty @-@ three . After nine weeks on the chart , the song peaked at number three on the week

ending April 6 , 2009 . It was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand for the shipment of over 15 @, @ 000 copies . In total , " Love Story " has sold over 7 @. @ 9 million copies worldwide , therefore establishing itself among of the best @-@ selling singles of all time .

= = Music videos = =

The accompanying music video for " Love Story " was directed by Trey Fanjoy , who previously directed the videos for the singles from Taylor Swift . Swift decided to collaborate with Fanjoy once again because she had been able to balance both of their ideas for music videos , something Swift appreciated deeply . The video is a period piece that draws influence from Medieval , Renaissance , and Regency eras . Swift had previously desired to film a period piece music video because of its distinctiveness from modern videos and videos she had filmed . When writing the song , she envisioned it in a prior time period , and encoded it with details accordingly . She believed " Love Story " ' s plot was a timeless scenario : " I think it could happen in the 1700s , the 1800s , or 2008 . " Thus , she searched for a timeless quality in demeanor of her love interest . With six months in advance , Swift searched by watching films for actors to interpret the role . An acquaintance of hers , who followed the sixth season of Nashville Star , recommended contestant Justin Gaston . Swift then looked through his pictures , and concluded he was suitable for the music video . Gaston fulfilled the requirements Swift had set out , describing him as a " Prince Charming that could 've been alive in the 1800s . " However , because Gaston was competing on Nashville Star , he was unable to participate in the music video . Gaston was eventually eliminated and Swift contacted him immediately to film the video . Swift was very impressed by Gaston 's acting skills : " I was so impressed by the way his [expressions] were in the video . Without even saying anything , he would just do a certain glance and it really came across well . "

A castle was chosen for the video 's setting . Personnel researched numerous castles in the United States and were unable to locate one in sufficient condition for filming . They had considered traveling to Europe to find a castle , but were then informed about a castle south of Nashville , Tennessee . Named Castle Gwynn , it was built in 1973 and chosen as the video 's setting . Wardrobe for the video was supplied by Jacquard Fabrics , excluding Swift 's dress for the balcony scene . The dress was designed by Sandi Spika with inspiration and suggestions from Swift . " She loves to put her input in her dresses " , stated Spika . The two had discussed the dress two months prior to the filming of the video . Accentuates were made on the video set . The video was filmed in two days in August 2008 in Tennessee . On the first day , the balcony and field scenes were shot . On the set , someone had replaced the playback CD with a high @-@ pitch , altered version of the song . As a result , Swift lent the crew her iPod to play the original track . While filming another scene , sunset was about to occur and , therefore , the process was executed rather rapidly . For the scene , Fanjoy suggested a kiss between Swift and Gaston , but Swift refused to because she believed it would make for a sweeter moment . On the second day , scenes at Cumberland University in Lebanon , Tennessee and at a ballroom were filmed . Swift learned the choreography for the latter in fifteen minutes prior to filming . Approximately 20 dancers were used for the scene .

The video commences with Swift , clothed by a black sweater and jeans , walking through a university campus and spotting Gaston sitting under a tree , reading a textbook . As they make eye contact , the video then transitions to an earlier era , in an seemingly 18th century castle (though the castle was built in 1973) , where Swift stands , wearing a corset and gown , and performs in a balcony . After , Gaston enters a party and sees Swift , wearing an elaborate gown , conversing with other females . The two , along with others , engage in ballroom dancing . After dancing , Gaston whispers into Swift 's ear and Swift is then seen pondering at night with a lantern . She meets with Gaston and the two walk , hold hands , and feed a horse by a well . The two then go their separate paths . Afterward , Swift stands in the balcony , looking out from the a window . She sees Gaston running toward her and immediately runs down the staircase . Swift and Gaston meet each other and hold each other . The video then transcends back into modern @-@ day as Gaston walks toward Swift and they gaze into each other 's eyes , where the video concludes . Cut @-@ scenes

feature ballroom dancing and Swift performing in the balcony setting . To date , the video has over 303 million views on YouTube .

= = = Video reception = = =

The video premiered on September 12 , 2008 on CMT . Mandi Bierly of Entertainment Weekly was concerned about the video mark Swift 's artistic evolution as an artist because it made her believe something else in the artist had altered . She , however , stated , " Worry though I might , I can ? t resist Taylor Swift ? s evolution from ' Tim McGraw ' (2006) to her latest , ' Love Story ' . " Bierly also compared Swift 's acting with that of Keira Knightley . Fraser McAlpine of BBC believed Swift played a princess in the video and , therefore , said it would make females envious . The video was nominated for the " Video of the Year " category at the 45th Academy of Country Music Awards , but lost to Brad Paisley 's " Waitin ' on a Woman " (2008) . At the 2009 CMT Music Awards , the video won the CMT Music Awards for " Video of the Year " and " Female Video of the Year " . It also won the Country Music Association Award for " Music Video of the Year " at the 43rd Country Music Association Awards . The video won " Favorite International Video " at the Philippine Myx Music Awards 2010 .

= = Live performances = =

When promoting the single in the United States in late 2008 and early 2009 , Swift performed " Love Story " on the Good Morning America , the Late Show with David Letterman , The Ellen DeGeneres Show , the 2008 Country Music Awards , as a duet with English rock band Def Leppard on CMT Crossroads , the episode was released as a DVD exclusively through Wal @-@ Mart stores in the United States , Clear Channel Communications 's Stripped , Studio 330 Sessions , and Saturday Night Live . In the United Kingdom , Swift promoted the track during early 2009 with performances on television programs , such as Loose Women and Later ... with Jools Holland . Since , Swift has performed the track twice on The Today Show , at the 2009 CMA Music Festival , the 2009 V Festival , the Australian charity concert Sydney Sound Relief , Dancing with the Stars , and again on the Late Show with David Letterman .

Swift performed " Love Story " on all venues of her first headlining concert tour , the Fearless Tour , which extended from April 2009 to June 2010 . The performances begun with backup dancers , dressed in Victorian era clothing , dancing ballroom to Baroque composer Johann Pachelbel 's " Pachelbel 's Canon " , as a castle backdrop was projected onto the stage . Swift emerged to upper level of the stage , from below , donning a crimson , 18th century gown with a golden accents . For the song 's last refrain , Swift hid behind backup dancers as she changed her wardrobe to a white wedding dress . Jon Pareles of The New York Times said Swift offered the audience with optimistic thinking with the performance in the August 27 , 2009 concert at Madison Square Garden in New York City . Reviewing the May 22 , 2010 concert at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto , Canada , Jane Stevenson of The Toronto Sun stated the moment was far too girly for her liking . " Love Story " served as the final performance on the setlist of Swift 's second concert tour , the Speak Now World Tour (2011) ; the performances featured Swift roaming throughout the stage , wearing a white sundress . On January 25 , 2013 , Swift did an acoustic version of the song , followed by " We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together " at the Los Premios 40 Principales in Spain . In 2014 , Swift performed a new rendition of ' Love Story ' , having a much more arena rock sound during the 2014 iHeartRadio Music Festival and in 2015 , at the BBC Radio 1 Big Weekend in Norwich . This version was used once again during her fourth headlining tour , The 1989 World Tour .

= = Cover versions and media usage = =

American Pop Punk band Forever the Sickest Kids covered " Love Story " for the 2009 deluxe edition of their debut studio album Underdog Alma Mater (2008) . English singer Joe McElderry , winner of the sixth series the United Kingdom talent competition The X Factor , performed a live

cover of " Love Story " on The X Factor Tour in 2010 based on altered lyrics that Gabe Bondoc had introduced as the song being sung from the male (Romeo) perspective . Gordon Smart of The Sun said the performance of " Love Story " on February 15 , 2010 in Liverpool , England , at the Echo Arena " went down a storm . " " Love Story " was featured in the romantic comedy Letters to Juliet (2010) , as well as its official trailer and in the pilot of the television series Hart of Dixie (2011) . The song was covered by Post @-@ Hardcore band Sky Tells All featuring Chris Motionless of the band Motionless in White The song was covered as an instrumental version by The Piano Guys (mashed with Coldplay 's " Vida La Vida ") and released as a YouTube video , though as of October 2014 it is no longer on their own channel . The song was also covered by Del Monte Vs . Topless [1]

= = Track listings = =

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

Since May 2013 RIAA certifications for digital singles include on @-@ demand audio and / or video song streams in addition to downloads .