

= Say Yes (Michelle Williams song) =

" Say Yes " is a song recorded by American recording artist Michelle Williams , taken from her fourth studio album Journey to Freedom (2014) . It features Williams ' former Destiny 's Child groupmates Beyoncé and Kelly Rowland . The song was written by Williams , Carmen Reece , Al Sherrod Lambert and Harmony Samuels who also produced it . E1 Music released " Say Yes " as the album 's third single on June 2 , 2014 . " Say Yes " marks the third time the trio collaborated as solo artists following the disbandment of their group in 2006 .

Musically , " Say Yes " is an uptempo gospel and pop song , which takes influence from dance music . It samples a popular Nigerian gospel tune originally titled " When Jesus Says Yes " . Upon release , " Say Yes " received generally favorable reviews from contemporary music critics who called the song infectious and praised its catchiness . Commercially the song performed well on the gospel charts in the US , peaking at number one for seven non @-@ consecutive weeks on the Billboard Hot Gospel Songs . It also appeared on charts in the UK , France and Belgium across Europe . Billboard ranked " Say Yes " seventh on the 2014 year @-@ end Hot Gospel Songs chart .

An accompanying music video for " Say Yes " was directed by Matthew A. Cherry . It was released on June 18 , 2014 when Williams appeared on Good Morning America . The clip depicts the three singers at a street party , dancing and singing with a crowd ; along with solo appearances of each singer in a forest , wearing white clothes during their respective verses . It received generally positive reviews from critics who accredited it as a reunion of Destiny 's Child and praised its feel @-@ good nature .

= = Background = =

" Say Yes " was written by Williams , Carmen Reece , Al Sherrod Lambert and Harmony Samuels who also served as its producer . The song marked the third collaboration of the trio consisting of Williams , Beyoncé and Kelly Rowland , after their group Destiny 's Child disbanded in 2006 . Williams sent an advanced demo of the album Journey to Freedom to her former bandmates Beyoncé and Rowland which contained the song as a solo track titled " When Jesus Says Yes " . Later , Williams received a call from Rowland who said , " We love ' When Jesus Says Yes ' ... there has to be a Destiny 's Child mix of the song . " Both Rowland and Beyoncé recorded their respective verses in a studio afterwards . Williams stated she wanted to keep the project in secrecy " until it was time " to reveal it . During an interview with Rap @-@ Up , Beyoncé spoke about her decision to be a featured artist on the song , stating , " This song is so inspiring and ... not enough music out there like this and I 'm proud to be a part of it . " Williams talked about " Say Yes " with Fuse , saying

' " It 's an inspirational song , so I wasn 't sure how people would take to it . But it kind of reminds me of praying [in] that it continues to have the impact , and does have the impact , of when Kanye West did ' Jesus Walks . ' I think I got one here . "

" Say Yes " was leaked onto the Internet on May 21 , 2014 . Williams revealed on her Twitter account the same day that the leaked track was an unmixed and unmastered version of " Say Yes " . In an interview with The Hollywood Reporter , she said that she " hated " the fact that an unfinished version was released although noted that she was not angry and felt " overwhelmed " by the positive support . Prior to the song 's debut , several publications reported that Beyoncé 's sister , Solange Knowles , also appeared as a featured artist in " Say Yes " ; however , the claims were later proved to be wrong . A final official version of the song premiered on June 2 , 2014 and was released to radio and made available for digital download the same day . On the German web show MalcolmMusic , Williams performed a German version of the song with host and journalist Malcolm Ohanwe .

= = Composition = =

" Say Yes " is an uptempo gospel song with elements of pop music . The song was also noted for exploring elements of Contemporary Christian as well as electronic dance music . Jeff Benjamin of Fuse felt that the song contained a " zippy " , reggae @-@ dance beat . Its instrumentation includes percussion instruments , synths and horn stabs along with African beats . According to sheet music published on the website Musicnotes.com by Kobalt Music Publishing America , Inc . , " Say Yes " is written in the key of D ? major using common time . It contains a moderately fast tempo with a metronome of 120 beats per minute and the singers ' vocal elements range from the low note of A ? 3 to the high note of F5 . The song samples a popular Nigerian gospel tune originally titled " When Jesus Says Yes " . Chris Payne and Colin Stutz of Billboard magazine described it as a modern dance and contemporary electronic dance reworking of that song . Stutz also found elements of an " upbeat swing " of West African gospel . Regarding the composition of the song , Williams stated , " It is a song that came from Africa more than a hundred years ago . I don 't think anyone knows who wrote it or who started singing that chorus . When the song leaked last week , so many people from Africa and Nigeria were trying to let me know where it came from . "

Williams sings the lead vocals while Beyoncé and Rowland sing their respective solo verses and serve as background vocalists throughout the song . Eric Corpus from The Christian Post interpreted the song 's lyrics as a praise of God 's sovereignty and " magnetism " of Jesus ' love . " Say Yes " opens with a message of faith as Williams sings the first lines , " I 'm not worried about a thing / ' Cause I know you are guiding me / Where you lead me / Lord I will go / I have not fear / ' Cause I know who 's in control . " The chorus is constructed as a call and response with the trio repeatedly praising Jesus through the lines " When Jesus say yes , nobody can say no ! " while being backed by a choir which repeats the verses .

= = Critical reception = =

" Say Yes " received generally favorable reviews . Colin Stutz of Billboard described " Say Yes " as a " peppy " number . John Walker of MTV News described the song 's refrain as " infectious " . Mike Wass from Idolator praised the song 's catchiness , describing it as an " infectious gospel club @-@ banger " and an invitation to the dance floor for listeners . Further , he called it " possibly the first twerk @-@ inducing song of praise " . He concluded his review , writing , " those harmonies remain unrivaled and the chorus is a monster . Trust me , [its chorus] will be stuck in your head after the first listen . " In another review he felt that the song managed to bridge the gap between gospel and popular music . Describing the song as " kinetic " , Marc Hogan of Spin magazine called it " not only star @-@ studded , but damn near impossible to get out of your head , too " . Rolling Stone writer Jon Blistein described the horn stabs as " heavenly " and praised the trio 's " always potent harmonies " .

Yahoo ! Music writer Billy Johnson , Jr. found a " vibrant dance energy " in the song 's music and further hailed its message as " uplifting " . Similarly , Complex writer Zach Frydenlund echoed his statements , describing the song as " uplifting " . In a review for Fuse , Jeff Benjamin described " Say Yes " as a " gospel @-@ island hybrid " . He felt that it was interesting to hear Williams as the lead vocalist instead of Beyoncé , who had previously served as the lead vocalist of Destiny 's Child . Benhamin finished his review , concluding , " It all sort of makes us want to twerk and throw our hands to heavens at the same time . " Brownie Marie of Christian Today praised Williams ' vocal performance during the song 's hook , along with the " well @-@ controlled riffs " . She also wrote that Beyoncé is " vocally subdued on the track , and truly lets Williams ' voice receive the attention " . Hayen Manders from Refinery29 felt that the song was Williams ' " turn to shine " . In a more mixed review , Vulture columnist Lindsey Weber wrote that the song is not " a total mess " and that listeners might sing the praises in the song along with it . At the 2014 Soul Train Music Awards , " Say Yes " is currently nominated in the category for Best Gospel / Inspirational Song .

= = Chart performance = =

In the United States , " Say Yes " entered the top ten of the Billboard Hot Gospel Songs chart at

number five in its second week of charting on the issue dated June 21 , 2014 while also charting at numbers one and four on the Gospel Digital Songs and Gospel Streaming Songs charts respectively , the latter also being its debut position . On the issue dated July 5 , the song jumped from the position of nine to the top of the Hot Gospel Songs chart , while also reaching the number one spot on the Gospel Streaming Songs and Gospel Digital Songs . With that feat , it became Williams ' first number @-@ one single on the Hot Gospel Songs , spending 2 consecutive weeks at the top of the chart and 4 weeks at number @-@ one on the Gospel Digital Songs chart . In its twenty @-@ fourth week of charting on Hot Gospel Songs , " Say Yes " returned to number one , on the issue dated November 22 , 2014 , remaining there for five consecutive weeks , giving it a total of seven non @-@ consecutive weeks at number one .

On the Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles chart , which acts as a 25 @-@ song extension of the main Billboard Hot 100 , " Say Yes " peaked at number nine . It also peaked at number 14 on the Billboard component Heatseekers Songs chart . Luis Gomez in an article for the Chicago Tribune opined that the song 's religious message was the reason for its mild reception and performance on the mainstream charts .

In the United Kingdom , " Say Yes " debuted and peaked on the UK Singles Chart and the component UK R & B Chart at numbers 106 and 15 respectively on June 14 , 2014 . The song performed better on the country 's UK Indie Chart where it peaked at the eighth position in its first week . In France , Williams achieved her first solo single on the French Singles Chart when the track debuted at number 161 in the first week of charting on June 14 , 2014 . The following week , it fell off the chart , but re @-@ entered at its peak position of 90 on June 28 . It fell down to the position of 155 the next week and completely dropped out afterwards . Elsewhere , it charted for five weeks on the Flanders version of the Belgian Urban Singles Chart where it peaked at number 28 on June 14 , 2014 .

= = Music video = =

= = = Background and synopsis = = =

The music video for " Say Yes " was filmed on May 20 , 2014 and directed by Matthew A. Cherry . The clip was filmed in a house in Maplewood , New Jersey , where a crowd gathered to watch the trio on set . Following that , filming was cordoned off by local police . Several pictures of Beyoncé arriving on set were shared on social networks by fans . Williams debuted the clip for " Say Yes " on her appearance at Good Morning America on June 18 , 2014 . Regarding the filming of the video , she stated , " Sometimes the director or production assistants had to say like , ' OK , girls , bring it back home . Bring it back together because when we were together , we go back to how we were when we were younger , just always laughing and talking about things . It 's been a great moment . " The video was released on Williams ' Vevo account the same day . A behind @-@ the @-@ scenes footage was also released featuring the trio on set and talking about the song and their reunion . In the clip , Williams said she felt excited that she had her " sisters " with her spreading a positive message for the world .

The video opens with Williams singing the opening verses and dancing on a street . Beyoncé , wearing an apostolic @-@ like gown to fit the theme of the track , appears at 90 seconds into the song to deliver her verse in a forest in front of a tree hung with paper lanterns . Rowland appears soon after in the same forest wearing a white crop top , smiling . The singers appear together in the video 's last section when Williams , Beyoncé and Rowland sing and dance together at a street @-@ party scene along with dancers who are shown waving their flags and playing drums . The choreography present in the video was noted to be traditional African .

= = = Reception = = =

The video received generally favorable reviews . Daniel Kreps from Rolling Stone said that it

managed to highlight the " ' feel @-@ good ' vibes " without using " heavy @-@ handed " religious iconography . He further praised the reunion of Destiny 's Child . Tom Breihan of Stereogum said that each singer looked " seriously happy " , further praising Beyoncé 's style as reminiscent of the Destiny 's Child @-@ era . Writing for People , Zakiya Yamal opined that the traditional choreography and drums were inspired by Africa . Yamal further praised the singers ' synchronized " formidable moves , reminding everyone they 've still got it " . Chiderah Monde from the New York Daily News felt that the dance sequence during the end of the video was similar to older videos by Destiny 's Child . Alex Rees from Cosmopolitan stated that a reunion of the group was " always good fun " . He also noted that the clip featured Williams dancing in the center spot between Beyoncé and Rowland for the first time . Mike Wass from Idolator described the video as " heavenly " and concluded that it was " heart @-@ warming " to see Williams have her moment . Wass went on to describe the clip as a " visual extravaganza " and praised Beyoncé 's look .

Mike Ayers of Fuse , described the visual as " uplifting " , adding that it included numerous " sun @-@ soaked " shots of the singers . John Walker of MTV News described the " glorious " , fun clip as " the Destiny 's Child reunion of your dreams " . Similarly , Zach Frydenlund from Complex wrote that he had a " great time " watching and remembering his " favorite Destiny 's Child moments " . Samantha Grossman of Time magazine praised the fact that the group reunited for a music video , linking it to the times when they were part of Destiny 's Child . Billboard 's Chris Payne described the clip as " jubilant " and felt that when the singers are seen dacing on the set together , " [it] is absolutely heartwarming " . Writing for Essence , Dominique Hobdy felt that the trio was " all smiles as they sing about who 's really in charge " . Chris Coplan from Consequence of Sound praised the clip 's positive energy as " [b] right and shimmery " comparing it with " forget the world and just dance " clips from the early ' 90s . Brett Malec from E ! Online described it as " [i] nspirational " . Hayden Manders from Refinery29 praised Williams ' look and stated that " the three women look like they 're having a blast " . Mikael Wood from Los Angeles Times found the choreography performed by the trio to be " light " and described the clip as " pretty festive " .

= = Live performances = =

Williams performed an acoustic version of " Say Yes " at Yahoo ! Music , which was released in 2014 . Williams also performed the single during her set at the 2014 Essence Music Festival . Williams later performed the song together with Kelly Rowland and Beyoncé at the 2015 Stellar Awards .

= = Charts = =