

= Lovers in Japan =

" Lovers in Japan " is a song by British alternative rock band Coldplay . It was written by all members of the band for their fourth studio album , Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends . The song is built around an introductory tack piano sound , then followed by chiming guitars and soaring choruses , supported by the pianos and rhythms that accompany the song 's lyrics . The album version of " Lovers in Japan " also includes the track " Reign of Love " .

It was released as a promotional radio single on 3 November 2008 and peaked at number 10 on the Billboard Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles chart . The song also charted at number 19 on Billboard 's Adult Top 40 chart . " Lovers in Japan " was well received by music critics , who praised the track 's general sound . Although the promotional single is seen as the fourth single from the album , the version on the single is the Osaka Sun Mix , which is featured on the Prospekt 's March EP .

= = Writing and composition = =

When asked about the development of the song , during a track @-@ by @-@ track reveal , drummer Will Champion said :

We were in a studio in New York , this place called the Magic Shop , and it had this thing called a tack piano there , which sounds like an old honky @-@ tonk piano , where you put little tacks in the hammers , so it sounds like more of a harpsichord almost . And so we wanted to use that kind of sound , but we didn 't have a tack piano , so rather than sample it , we went and bought an old piano from the shop up the road from our studio , and we bought a load of tacks , and me and Guy and Jon spent a couple of hours pushing tacks into the piano hammers .

On Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends , " Lovers in Japan " transitions seamlessly into a second track entitled " Reign of Love " . In an interview with Q magazine , bassist Guy Berryman explained that the band could not make up their minds about the track listing , as they had discussed that they wanted to keep the album concise with a total of ten tracks and an intended length of under 42 minutes . Champion further stated , " We just preferred to have less titles and more stuff . The album as a whole has got the most on it , but it ? s the shortest . We wanted to make it almost impossible for you to not listen to it all in one go . " In addition , vocalist Chris Martin revealed that the band had wanted to have a " two @-@ in @-@ one " song title , as American recording artist Justin Timberlake had done the same on his album FutureSex / LoveSounds (2006) .

The song 's instrumentation features an introductory detuned tack piano sound , progressing to feature upbeat guitar riffs and soaring choruses . Towards the end , it builds into a rhythmically soaring , sound , compared by critics to that of Irish rock band U2 . Martin sings about the shortness of time , as well as " runners who must run until the race is won " and " soldiers who must soldier on " in the second and third verses of the song .

= = Release and reception = =

Coldplay released " Lovers in Japan " in the United States on 3 November 2008 as the fourth single from Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends . A new mix of the song is also featured in the band 's 2008 EP Prospekt 's March , entitled " Lovers in Japan (Osaka Sun Mix) " . Chris Martin said of the Prospekt 's March version of the song : " We 've been playing it live better than it is on the record . So the live version has informed this Osaka Sun version , which is just a bit more lively . " " Lovers in Japan " was released as a radio @-@ only single in the United States and later entered Billboard 's Hot Adult Top 40 Tracks chart , where it peaked at number 32 on the issue dated 29 November 2008 . The track also peaked at number 10 on the Billboard Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles chart and at number 65 on the Pop 100 chart . Outside of the United States , " Lovers in Japan " peaked at number 41 on the Japan Hot 100 .

" Lovers in Japan " received high commendations from critics . Alexis Petridis of The Guardian

review of the album , wrote : " Chris Martin 's melodies ... shine : even his loudest detractor could hardly deny his way with a tune as evidenced here by ' 42 ' and ' Lovers in Japan ' . " Evan Sawdey of PopMatters remarked that the song is " stunning , jaw @-@ dropping highlight " . He added that " Martin pounds away at a bouncy toy @-@ piano melody ... leading into a chorus where guitarist Jonny Buckland gets to unleash what might be the catchiest guitar riff he 's written ... (and yes , he absolutely bathes in the moment) . " Joey Guerra of the Houston Chronicle described " Lovers in Japan " as a " joyous , romantic anthem that combines wistful rock riffs and gorgeous piano " . He also wrote that the song is one of " the disc 's best moments " .

Jed Gottlieb of the Boston Herald remarked that the piano sound in " Lovers in Japan / Reign of Love " hints at the 1968 song " Lady Madonna " by The Beatles , " before taking a neo @-@ classical , Chopin @-@ does @-@ Britpop route " . Jeff Crawford of the City Messenger wrote , " ' Lovers in Japan / Reign of Love ' and ' Strawberry Swing ' rank among the band 's best work " . Josh Hathaway from The Plain Dealer wrote that " Lovers in Japan / Reign of Love " works " in just the opposite direction with ' Lovers ' playing like an update of vintage Simple Minds , an almost anthem that never fully takes flight , before giving way to the gentle ' Reign of Love ' " .

= = Music video = =

A music video for the single , directed by Mat Whitecross in London , was released on 31 October 2008 through the iTunes Store . The video was made available for free for a week on the American and Canadian iTunes Stores . The video utilises the " Osaka Sun Mix " version of the song .

The first half of the video shows the band playing in a courtyard while each member writes certain words from the lyrics in glowing neon on the screen . During the chorus , the camera spins around in circles to go along with the lines " They are turning my head out " . The video ends with butterfly @-@ shaped confetti raining on the band , as happens when each chorus is played at live concerts , along with the words " The End " on the screen behind the band as they take a bow .

= = Track listing = =

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =