

= I 'm Not Your Hero =

" I 'm Not Your Hero " is a song written , recorded and performed by Canadian duo Tegan and Sara and produced by Greg Kurstin for the album Heartthrob ( 2013 ) . Recorded at Echo Studio and EastWest Studios in California in 2012 , it was released on October 21 of that year as a promotional single . The lyrics for the new wave synthpop ballad were written by Sara Quin , and discuss her teenage life in the 1990s when she was unable to identify with the lives of pop culture figures and had unforeseen thoughts about her later life . Guitar chords , drums , bass guitar , synths and harmonized vocals are also played in the track .

" I 'm Not Your Hero " was mostly well @-@ received by critics for its songwriting and composition . The track garnered comparisons to the works of Santigold , Fleetwood Mac and The Temper Trap . Commercially , it peaked at number 58 on the Billboard Canadian Hot 100 and 157 on the French SNEP singles chart . Tegan and Sara have performed it at the Austin City Limits Music Festival , their Let 's Make Things Physical tour , and on shows and services such as Soundcheck and Queen 's TV .

= = Production and composition = =

In November 2011 , it was revealed on Tegan and Sara Quinn 's official website that they were writing new material for their seventh studio album : " [ we ] are back in our home studios working away at more songs . We ? re really looking forward to making a new record now . Our hope is to be in the studio by early 2012 . " " I 'm Not Your Hero " was written for the album , which was later named Heartthrob and recorded between February and May 2012 . Sara , who wrote the lyrics , said the song was based on her life as a teenager when she was unable to identify with the lives of pop culture figures and had unforeseen thoughts about her future . She claimed the lyrics were about her political views from watching The West Wing , her identity and her sexuality . Tegan stated that when Sara showed the song to her and the producers , it was initially more of a love song and much more acoustic and slow than the final mix that would be released , and said she " was haunted by it almost immediately . I found the verses to be quintessential Sara . "

According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Naked in a Snowsuit Publishing , the new wave synthpop ballad is performed in common time at a tempo of 122 beats per minute . It is composed in the key of A Major , with the vocal range spanning from E4 to D6 . A chord progression of A5 ? E5 ? F ? m ? Dmaj7 ? F ? m ? E ? Dmaj7 is followed in the verse , D ? A in the pre @-@ chorus , and D ? E ? F ? m ? D in the chorus . The track opens with guitar chords before loud drums are played . Harmonized vocals , bass guitar and blurred synthesizers are also parts of the track 's arrangement . Reviewers made comparisons of its musical structure to songs such as " L.E.S. Artistes " by Santigold The Temper Trap 's " Sweet Disposition " , and the works of Fleetwood Mac . Alt Rock Live author Martine Johansen found the " non @-@ traditional " rhythms " strangely reminiscent " of

= = Release and live performances = =

" I 'm Not Your Hero " was first available for digital download in the United Kingdom as part of their compilation extended play called In Your Head : An Introduction to Tegan and Sara , which was issued on October 19 , 2012 . On October 21 , it was released as a promotional single for worldwide streaming . It received mostly positive reviews from critics upon its release , some calling it one of the best songs off Heartthrob . Brodsky described it as " a track that honors their previous work but shows their dedication to musical development . " Bryne Yancey of Punknews.org wrote the song " blows out its chorus rather impressively from the verses with some neat , alternated instrumentation . " A more mixed opinion came from Billboard 's Jason Lipshutz ; he praised the song 's " eloquent " message , but felt the track overall was not as engaging as the other songs on the album .

In an interview with MTV Hive , Tegan and Sara said " I 'm Not Your Hero " was one of their favorite songs to perform live . The duo first did so , along with " Now I 'm All Messed Up " and " I Was a

Fool " , in Vancouver on September 23 , 2012 . They performed it at the 2012 Austin City Limits Music Festival , and the song was also a part of the set list of their 2014 " Let 's Make Things Physical " promotional tour . In April 2014 , the pair played it at the Juno Awards in Burton Cummings Theatre live on Queen 's TV . The duo has performed two acoustic renditions of the song , one in November 2012 in a studio session for Alter The Press ! , and in July 2013 on their interview by the WNYC program Soundcheck .

= = Personnel and credits = =

The following information adapted from the liner notes of Heartthrob :

Locations

Recorded and engineered at Echo Studio , Los Angeles , California ; drums recorded at EastWest Studios , Hollywood , California

Mixed at Larrabee Sound Studios , Los Angeles , California

Mastered at Bernie Grundman Mastering , Hollywood , California .

Personnel

= = Charts = =