

= My Immortal =

" My Immortal " is a song by American nu @-@ metal band Evanescence from their debut studio album *Fallen* (2003) . It was released by Wind @-@ up Records on December 8 , 2003 , as the third single from the album . The song was written by guitarist Ben Moody , lead singer Amy Lee and keyboardist David Hodges , and it was produced by Moody and Dave Fortman . Various versions of " My Immortal " were recorded ; one of them was included on the demo album *Origin* (2000) and another on the EP release *Mystary* (2003) . The version originally appearing on *Origin* was later included on *Fallen* , featuring piano with backing strings . The version of the song released as a single was dubbed the " band version " because of the complete band 's performance of the bridge and final chorus of the song .

" My Immortal " is a piano power ballad written in slow tempo . Lyrically , it talks about " a spirit staying with you after its death and haunting you until you actually wish that the spirit were gone because it won 't leave you alone . " Critical reception towards the song was positive , with critics complimenting its piano melody . In 2005 it received a nomination for Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals at the 47th Grammy Awards . The song was also commercially successful , peaking within the top ten in more than ten countries . It also peaked at number seven on the *Billboard* Hot 100 and topped the charts in Canada , Greece and the US Adult Pop Songs chart . The single was certified gold in the United States , and platinum in Australia .

An accompanying music video directed by David Mould was filmed entirely in black @-@ and @-@ white in Gothic Quarter , Barcelona on October 10 , 2003 . The video shows Lee sitting and singing on various locations , but never touching the ground . Shots of Moody are also shown but he is never together with his band or Lee . The video was nominated in the category for Best Rock Video at the 2004 MTV Video Music Awards . The song was performed by the band during their three concert tours : the *Fallen* Tour (2003) , The Open Door Tour (2007) and the Evanescence Tour (2011 @-@ 12) . It was also performed live during some of their television appearances and award ceremonies such as the *Billboard* Music Awards .

= = Background = =

The song was written by Ben Moody , Amy Lee and David Hodges and produced by Moody and Dave Fortman ; it was the fourth song to be written for Evanescence . Amy Lee 's vocals and the piano parts of the song were recorded in NRG Recording Studios , California . " My Immortal " was mixed by Dave Fortman at Conway Recording Studios in North Hollywood while it was mastered by Ted Jensen at Sterling Sound in New York City . The orchestral parts in the song were arranged by the composer Graeme Revell .

The first known recording of " My Immortal " was made for the band 's self @-@ titled EP , which solely featured Lee 's vocals accompanied by a piano , and slightly different lyrics . The song was cut from the EP before it was released . In 2000 , the song was re @-@ recorded for the band 's demo album , *Origin* , which contains a rearranged piano melody and lyrics , including the bridge added by Lee . It was again recorded for the band 's debut full @-@ length debut studio album , *Fallen* where the vocals of the demo version (that were recorded by Lee at 18 years old) were accompanied by slightly different instrumentation . It is also featured on the band 's 2003 EP , *Mystary* , which is much more similar to the band version . Wind @-@ up Records preferred the *Origin* version , which is why the exact vocals recorded from 2000 are again included in the song 's album version . The version that was recorded and released as a single is moderately alternative to that of the album version , and is often referred to as the " band version " because of the additional band performing the bridge and final chorus of the song . The later pressings of *Fallen* contain the single version (or " band version ") of " My Immortal " as a hidden track . Lee expressed some dissatisfaction with the early versions of the song saying , " It 's not even a real piano . And the sound quality is bad because we had to break into the studio to record it late at night when no one was around because we couldn 't afford a real session . "

= = Composition = =

" My Immortal " is a piano and power ballad written in the key of A major . It was described as a " goth @-@ meets @-@ pop " song . According to the sheet music published by Alfred Music Publishing on the website Musicnotes.com , the song is set in common time and performed in slow and free tempo of 80 beats per minute . Lee 's vocal range for the song runs from the low musical note of A3 to the high note of C ? 5 . Her vocals are accompanied by a simple piano . Adrien Begrand of PopMatters concluded that in " My Immortal " , Lee is " doing her McLachlan / Tori Amos schtick " . The song was also compared with some of Enya 's material .

The lyrics of the song refer to a spirit that haunts the memory of a grieving loved one . Similar to several other songs written by Moody , the lyrics of the song are based on a short story he had previously written . According to Lee , it was " Ben [Moody] ' s song . " Moody said that the song talks about " a spirit staying with you after its death and haunting you until you actually wish that the spirit were gone because it won 't leave you alone . " He also stated in the booklet of *Fallen* that he dedicated the song to his grandfather , Bill Holcomb . In " My Immortal " , Lee expresses her feelings through the line , " Though you 're still with me / I 've been alone all along . " A writer for IGN said that " ' My Immortal ' is a song of pain and despair caused by the loss of a family member or very close friend and how it drove her [Lee] to the edge of insanity . "

= = Critical reception = =

The song received critical acclaim from music critics . Kirk Miller of *Rolling Stone* said that " ' My Immortal ' lets Lee wail about her personal demons over simple piano and some symphonic dressings ? it 's a power ballad that P.O.D. and Tori Amos fans could both appreciate . " Chris Harris of the same publication found it to be a " song that 's become something of an Alanis Morissette @-@ like battle hymn for her [Lee 's] goth disciples over the last few years . " Richard Harrington of *The Washington Post* called " My Immortal " a " majestic " song that helped the band win a Grammy Award . Blair R. Fischer from *MTV News* described the song as a " delicate , heartfelt ballad " . IGN 's Ed Thompson concluded that " My Immortal " was " one of the first and best songs Evanescence ever wrote " . Jordan Reimer , a writer of *The Daily Princetonian* found a " haunting beauty " in the song . In 2005 the band was nominated in the category for Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals at the 47th Grammy Awards for the song .

A less positive review was written for *The Guardian* by Tom Reynolds , where he put the song at number 24 on his list " Sad songs say so much " . Talking about the composition and the meaning of the song , he wrote that the song was a " whimpering post @-@ breakup tune in which lead singer Amy Lee pitifully mourns the end of a relationship over a piano accompaniment that sounds like Pachelbel after the Prozac wore off " , and that it " closely follows the ' quantum tragedy paradigm ' : the shorter the time two people spent together as a couple , the more overwrought the song is that describes their break @-@ up . "

= = Chart performance = =

The song is considered the band 's second most successful single of all time , generally peaking within the top 20 of more than 10 countries internationally . On the chart issue dated April 10 , 2004 , " My Immortal " peaked at number seven on the *Billboard* Hot 100 , while on the *Pop Songs* chart it peaked at number two on March 27 , 2004 . It has peaked at number nineteen on the *Adult Contemporary* chart as well . On February 17 , 2009 , " My Immortal " was certified Gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for selling more than 500 @,@ 000 copies in the United States . The song managed to top the charts of Canada , Greece and *Billboard* 's *Adult Pop Songs* in the United States . It also helped *Fallen* to move from number nine to number three on the *Billboard* 200 chart , selling another 69 @.@ 000 copies . On the *Billboard* 's *Radio Songs* chart , the song peaked at number seven on April 10 , 2004 . Nielsen Broadcast Data Systems placed the song at number six on the list of most played radio songs in 2004 with 317 @,@ 577 spins .

On the Australian Singles Chart , " My Immortal " debuted at number four on January 25 , 2004 which later became its peak position . The next eleven weeks , it remained in the top ten of the chart , and it was seen on the chart at number forty @-@ four for the week ending June 13 , 2004 . The single was certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) for shipment of 70 @,@ 000 copies in that country . On December 20 , 2003 , " My Immortal " debuted at number seven on the UK Singles Chart which later also became its peak position . On February 14 , 2004 the song dropped out of the chart , and it later re @-@ entered at number eighty @-@ four on July 18 , 2008 . After spending several weeks on different positions on the UK Rock Chart , on August 27 , 2011 , it peaked at number one . The next week , " My Immortal " moved to number two being replaced by the band 's single " What You Want " (2011) , and one week later it returned at number one on the chart . That achievement helped the song re @-@ enter on the UK Singles Chart at number eighty @-@ one on August 27 , 2011 and at number eighty @-@ nine on October 22 , 2011 .

= = Music video = =

A music video directed by David Mould was filmed entirely in black @-@ and @-@ white in Plaça de Sant Felip Neri , Gothic Quarter (Barri Gòtic) , Barcelona on October 10 , 2003 . Lee described the place of the filming during an interview with MTV News : " We did it in a cool , old area of town . [...] We shot some of it at this scenic point , and there was a rooftop where you could see Barcelona below . It was really neat . " The version of the song used on the video is different from the one off the record , with the band entering the song at the end of the bridge and a string arrangement by David Campbell . Evanescence wanted the band version to be on the album as well , but " the label was stuck on the demo and wouldn 't let us use the version we really wanted . [...] We fought back and forth about it and finally we gave in , but we were all so angry about it . " The video was filmed two weeks before Ben Moody 's departure from the band . Amy Lee admitted that the visuals in the video were " striking in retrospect " , but added that the similarities between what was filmed and Moody 's departure were coincidental : " We shot it in Barcelona about a week before Ben left the band unexpectedly . I think none of us knew , including him , that he was going anywhere . And when we got the video back and watched it , it was right after he had left . And it 's bizarre how much the video is about that . We all sat there with goose bumps , like , ' Holy crap . We 've got to watch that again . ' " In an interview with the British magazine Rock Sound , Lee further explained the concept which was related with his departure :

" You know what ? When you see the video it 's really amazing . Obviously we filmed it before this [Ben Moody 's departure] happened and it 's amazing irony , how much it makes sense . We 're all separated and wandering the streets looking like it 's the day after a funeral , with Ben in a suit and bare feet , and I 'm never touching the ground . I 'm sitting on a phone booth or lying on a car , to hint that I 'm dead , that I 'm singing from the dead . It 's all about separation . It 's almost like the director knew what was going to happen , but he can 't have known . It 's just one of those fate things . "

The music video for " My Immortal " begins with Lee sitting on a fountain . Her legs and arms are covered with bandage as she puts them in the water . She is wearing a long white dress and is seen walking around the fountain , surrounded by children and other people . Shots of Moody follow , who appears to be sullen and withdrawn . He is wearing a suit and his feet are bare . His shoulders sag and his head slumps forward as he delicately plays piano , and he later picks up his jacket as if he is about to leave . When the bridge starts , the band is shot performing in one room while Moody is in another , playing on the piano . Throughout the video , Lee is never filmed on ground level . She walks along the ledge of a fountain , sits in a tree and sings lying on top of a building . She also lies atop scaffolding and on the hood of a car surrounded with leaves .

The video for the song was nominated in the category for Best Rock Video at the 2004 MTV Video Music Awards . According to Jon Wiederhorn from MTV News , the shots of the video are " evocative and artistic , resembling a cross between a foreign film and a Chanel advertisement . " Joe D 'Angelo of MTV News said that Lee 's disconnection in the video shows a " distressed and

emotionally wrought heroine . " Rob Sheffield of Rolling Stone praised the video saying that Lee looked like a " teen @-@ misery titan " and that she " tiptoed through a marble castle of pain " . He also concluded that she could have borrowed the dress from Stevie Nicks . During an interview with Spin in 2011 Lee said that it was weird for her to watch the old videos of the band including the one for " My Immortal " . She explained , " Just watching our oldest videos , it 's weird . I definitely remember watching ' My Immortal , ' like , ' That was not some dream where it was really somebody else . ' I 've totally had a couple of those moments . It 's cool . "

= = Live performances = =

Evanescence performed the song at the 2004 Billboard Music Awards on December 8 , 2004 . The band was joined by an eight @-@ piece string section during the performance and a stage backdrop of knotted , decaying trees were placed on stage in order to showcase the " powerful vocals " by Amy Lee as stated by a writer of Billboard . The band additionally performed the song at Late Show with David Letterman in March 2004 .

The band performed " My Immortal " during various stops of their first Fallen Tour (2003) . " My Immortal " was the closing song of the concerts , and Lee performed it after asking the fans " Just promise not to fall asleep . " A live version of the song from the performance at Le Zénith , Paris is featured on their first live album , Anywhere but Home (2004) . Johnny Loftus of AllMusic praised the live version saying that Lee takes a " softer approach " while performing " My Immortal " and added that it " becomes a singalong moment for 5 @,@ 000 souls . " " My Immortal " was also part of the set list during the band 's second tour , called The Open Door Tour (2007) in support of their second studio album The Open Door (2006) . Evanescence also played the song live at their secret New York gig which took place on November 4 , 2009 and during the 2011 Rock in Rio festival on October 2 , 2011 . The song was later added on the set list of their third worldwide tour in support of their third self @-@ titled studio album , the Evanescence Tour (2011 @-@ 12) .

= = Covers and usage in media = =

" My Immortal " was featured on the soundtrack Daredevil : The Album from the movie Daredevil (2003) along with " Bring Me to Life " . It was also heavily used in promos for the series finale of Friends . The song has been used during several television episodes . It featured during the Smallville season three episode " Memoria " . Lucy Walsh , a contestant of the show Rock the Cradle , covered the song during the fifth episode , " Judge 's Picks " . Dancer Hampton Williams performed to this song during his audition for the season 9 premiere of So You Think You Can Dance , broadcast on May 24 , 2012 , where he received a standing ovation , and in season 11 the song accompanied a performance by the top seven women , choreographed by Mandy Moore and broadcast on July 30 , 2014 , that earned similar reviews .

An arrangement of the song inspired by Gregorian chant was covered by the group Gregorian on their 2004 album The Dark Side . In 2013 , violinist Lindsey Stirling recorded an instrumental version of " My Immortal " for the Target edition of her first self @-@ titled studio album . In July 2013 it was uploaded to her personal channel on YouTube along with an accompanying performance video and it was released to the iTunes Store on October 1 , 2013 . The following year , Andrea Begley covered " My Immortal " for her debut studio album The Message . Robert Copsey of Digital Spy wrote that the cover " range [s] from the excruciating to the offensively inoffensive " . Teenage classical vocalist Jackie Evancho covered " My Immortal " in 2014 on her fifth full @-@ length album , Awakening , as a bonus track for Japanese fans .

= = Personnel = =

Credits are adapted from the liner notes of Fallen .

= = Track listing = =

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =