

= I Was Here (song) =

" I Was Here " is a song recorded by American R & B recording artist Beyoncé from her fourth studio album , 4 (2011) . It was written by Diane Warren , while production was handled by Ryan Tedder , Brent Kutzle , and Kuk Harrell ; Beyoncé is credited on the vocal production . " I Was Here " is a reflective R & B ballad , in which Beyoncé vulnerably reviews her past , wanting to leave an impact on the world before her life comes to an end . Described as a " career song " by Warren , its development was motivated by the September 11 attacks in the United States .

" I Was Here " garnered mixed to positive reviews from music critics , most of whom criticized the song 's inclusion on the track @-@ listing of the album and expressed discomfort about Beyoncé worrying about her legacy and wanting to leave an impact on the world , given that she was still below thirty years . Critics , nevertheless , favored Beyoncé 's vocal performance on the song , which is complemented by piano keys and heavy drum beats . Following the release of 4 , " I Was Here " charted at number 131 on the UK Singles Chart , 74 on the Swiss Singles Chart , and 44 on the South Korea Gaon International Singles Chart in early July 2011 . Later , in 2012 , the song also appeared on several charts internationally .

A music video for the song was released on August 19 , 2012 and it features Beyoncé performing the song live at the United Nations General Assembly while images of volunteers doing humanitarian work were projected on the screen behind her . It was donated to the World Humanitarian Day and aimed to create social media history with one billion people sharing the message of doing something good for another person . Upon its release , it received positive reviews from music critics who praised the projections , Beyoncé 's vocal performance and her look .

In late July , the song was included on the soundtrack for the 2011 FIFA Women 's World Cup Final . " I Was Here " was also part of Beyoncé 's set list for her residency show 4 Intimate Nights with Beyoncé and was used in the Revel Presents : Beyoncé Live shows during an interlude . The live video from the DVD Live at Roseland : Elements of 4 appeared online on November 16 , 2011 containing Beyoncé 's home movies and professional highlights . " I Was Here " was covered by Lea Michele for Glee 's soundtrack album Glee : The Music , The Graduation Album (2012) .

= = Development and recording = =

" I Was Here " was written by Diane Warren and was produced by Ryan Tedder , Brent Kutzle , Beyoncé and Kuk Harrell . " I Was Here " is the only song on the record that was not co @-@ written by Beyoncé . On June 1 , 2011 , Warren revealed in an interview for the New York Post 's PopWrap that she wrote " the best [song she has] ever written " a week and a half ago and that Beyoncé had already recorded it for her fourth studio album 4 . She described it as " a career song and probably my favorite thing I 've ever written " . The development of " I Was Here " was motivated by the September 11 attacks . Warren wanted to work with Beyoncé since the Destiny 's Child eras , but admitted that " I Was Here " was the ideal timing , " I thought that the one artist who would be my dream to sing [' I Was Here '] would be Beyoncé . This is one of those magical stories where what is meant to be actually happens . "

In May 2011 , Warren played the song on a guitar over the phone to Beyoncé 's husband Jay @-@ Z , who then called her . Upon hearing " I Was Here " , Beyoncé got chills , and immediately made up her mind , " Oh my god , I have to have this song . " September 2011 was going to mark the tenth anniversary of the September 11 attacks and Beyoncé thought that the song would perfectly complete her album , which had nearly reached completion . The mastering of 4 was delayed to allow Beyoncé to record the song . Warren was present at the recording sessions , which took place two days following her conversation with Beyoncé and Jay @-@ Z on the phone . She said , " There 's nothing better than to hear the song that you came up with [sung back] . It 's like your heart found another heart " , before adding :

I 've never had chills through my entire body like I had from hearing Beyoncé sing this song . ' I Was Here ' came from my soul and became the song that was coming from hers . In all my life , I have

never heard anything as amazing as this . Hearing her sing ' I Was Here ' will forever be one of the best moments of my life , and I know that this song will touch many other lives as well .

= = Composition = =

" I Was Here " is a downtempo R & B ballad that is instrumentally based on synthesizers undercurrent , indie rock guitars , musical keyboards and big drums provided by Tedder and Kutzle . The sound of the song 's recurring hook uses a combination of a xylophone and a piano . According to the sheet music published by Alfred Music Publishing at the website Musicnotes.com , " I Was Here " is written in the key of E minor with a 6 / 8 time signature and has a tempo of 37 beats per minute . The song follows a chord progression of Em ? C ? D ? Dsus ? Em ? C ? Em ? C , and Beyoncé 's vocals span two octaves from E3 to E5 .

James Reed of The Boston Globe felt that " [' I Was Here '] is ' Halo ' on steroids ? or Valium . " It features Beyoncé as the female protagonist , who wants to make her mark on this Earth before her time is up as she wants that the world remember her impact . Ian Walker of AbsolutePunk elaborated on the song 's composition : " ' I Was Here ' is Beyoncé 's monument to the ages . The song climbs higher and higher , chorus by chorus , until Beyoncé reaches her apex , delivering some of her best vocals on the album . The lyrics are a bit uninspired , overly triumphant but somewhat humble as the singer contemplates her mark on history . Although she has garnered massive amounts of acclaim through her storied career , Beyoncé is far from satisfied . "

" I Was Here " begins with quivering reverb and a plaintively plucked guitar setting a somber mood for about fifteen seconds before the beats begin alongside Beyoncé 's voice . Her vocals set a hushed and morbid tone on the song as she brings doses of edge and grit , singing : " I wanna leave my footprints on the sands of time / Know there was something that meant something that I left behind / When I leave this world , I 'll leave no regrets / I 'll leave something to remember , So they won 't forget " . She further sings throughout the song , " The hearts I have touched will be the proof that I leaved that I made a difference " . Watery synths shimmer in the background before Beyoncé adopts an authoritative tone to chant the chorus lines : " I was here / I lived , I loved / I was here / I did , I 've done / Everything that I wanted / And it was more than I thought it would be / I will leave my mark so everyone will know / I was here " .

= = Critical reception = =

" I Was Here " garnered mixed to positive reviews from critics , most of whom felt the song 's message was too deep for an artist like Beyoncé to sing , and criticized its placement on the track list of 4 . Georgette Cline of The Boombox gave the song a positive review stating that , although the lyrics are a bit on the morbid side , it works in Beyoncé 's favor , " proving she can tackle a myriad of subjects " . Matthew Horton of BBC criticized the song 's order of placement on the track list of 4 , stating that " ' Run the World (Girls) ' is tagged on like a bonus track following ' I Was Here ' , which sounds like the perfect ending for the album . " Matthew Perpetua of Rolling Stone also had the same view , saying it " disrupts the flow of up @-@ tempo songs on the second half 4 " . Perpetua however calls it a " showstopper " and added that it " work [s] well as a bittersweet emotional climax for the album " . Perpetua finished his review by saying that " ' I Was Here ' is the blustery ballad one would expect by a Beyoncé / Warren team @-@ up , and stands off as flat and generic when compared to the rest of 4 . " Another reviewer of the same magazine , Jody Rosen complimented Beyoncé 's vocals stating that she sings with authority ; however , he coined " I Was Here " as a low point on the album and added that it is " swamped in ' My Way ' -style self @-@ mythologizing . "

Steve Jones of USA Today showed appreciation for " I Was Here " : " At 29 , the still @-@ in @-@ her @-@ prime Beyoncé seems a little young to be worrying about her legacy , as she does on the Warren power ballad I Was Here . But she puts so much feeling into it that it winds up being the album 's most moving song . " Joanne Dorken of MTV UK was also positive , praising the song 's " simple backing music , and Beyoncé 's flawless and beautiful voice . " She concluded that " I Was

Here " ends up being a " standout song on the album [and] we won 't be forgetting Queen B in a hurry . " Spencer Kornhaber of The Atlantic was also positive , writing , " Payoff comes on 11th song , the epically loping ' I Was Here . ' Cameron Adams of the Herald Sun commented that " I Was Here " comes to " a show @-@ stopping moment in a Beyonce concert near you " . James Reed of The Boston Globe wrote that the collaboration of Diane Warren and Ryan Tedder , introduces " a new strain of her balladry : an ethereal marriage of R & B sensuality and stuttering indie @-@ rock guitars . " Condar Tao of the website Sputnikmusic showed his appreciation for the song , writing , " [...] perhaps even more notable is the record 's penultimate track , the Ryan Tedder @-@ produced ' I Was Here ' . Tedder is arguably one of the most irritating people working in pop today , and considering his track record , it 's not a surprise that ' I Was Here ' is the most contemporary @-@ sounding song off of 4 . What is surprising is just how good it is . The production is predictably icky , making that increasingly common mistake of using distant footsteps and reverbed guitar to convey a clichéd sense of ' epicness ' . " Gary Graff of Billboard said that the line " I want to leave my footprints on the sands of time " in the song defined the whole album . Simon Goddard of Q magazine chose " I Was Here " as one of the best songs on 4 , describing it as a " breast @-@ clutching tour de force " .

Rich Juzwiak of The Village Voice complimented " I Was Here " as knocking harder than anything on 4 's " bloated predecessor " , I Am ... Sasha Fierce (2008) . Similarly , Embling of Tiny Mix Tapes wrote : " ' I Was Here ' is a heavy brick of a song ? overwrought , maudlin , delusionally grandiose ? but it is also disarmingly honest about the addictive , undignified dimensions of fame and celebrity . " Genevieve Koski of The A.V. Club described " I Was Here " as " uncomfortably overwrought " although he said that Beyoncé manages to bring conviction to its lyrical content . Adam Markovitz of Entertainment Weekly also gave the song a mixed review stating that it reached a " lifetime @-@ movie levels of schmaltz " . David Amidon of PopMatters stated that " I Was Here " is " plain awkward to here a woman as in her prime physically as Beyoncé is to even approach such a tune . The dull music from Ryan Tedder and an army of co @-@ producers does not help matters . " Michael Cragg of The Observer gave the song a negative review , stating that it disappoints as being " corny bluster at odds with the laid @-@ back feel of her most accomplished album yet . " Andy Gill of The Independent simply stated that " I Was Here " strains too hard for " Empire State of Mind " (2009) status . Greg Kot of Chicago Tribune described the song as a " toxic string of cliches " . Hamish MacBain of NME gave " I Was Here " a mixed review stating the song sounds like an X @-@ Factor winner 's single , full of unbelievably trite sentiments .

= = Chart performance = =

Although " I Was Here " was never released as a single , it appeared on several charts across the world following the release of 4 . Selling 14 @,@ 173 digital downloads , the song opened at number 44 on the South Korea Gaon International Singles Chart for the week ending July 2 , 2011 which became its peak position on that chart . Following the release of 4 , " I Was Here " also charted at number 131 on the UK Singles Chart on July 9 , 2011 . " I Was Here " additionally debuted on the Swiss Singles Chart at number 74 on July 10 , 2011 , before falling off the chart the following week . On the chart issue dated January 16 , 2012 , " I Was Here " debuted at number 87 on the Australian Singles Chart and number 26 on its urban chart .

After the release of the music video of the song it appeared again on several charts . On the Irish Singles Chart , the song debuted at number 88 for the week ending August 30 , 2012 which later became its peak position on that chart . On the Belgian Ultratip Singles Chart , the song debuted at number 83 on September 1 , 2012 and four weeks later it peaked at number 16 on September 29 , 2012 . On the chart issue dated September 8 , 2012 , the song appeared at number 40 on the UK R & B Chart . The next week it moved three positions up , at number 37 , which became its peak position . On the Hungarian Singles Chart , " I Was Here " debuted at number 6 on the chart issue dated September 9 , 2012 which also became its peak position on that chart . For the week ending September 22 , 2012 , the song debuted at number 44 on the US Hot Dance Club Songs . The next week , it moved to number 31 , and ascended on the chart over the next weeks . It reached its peak

position of number 13 on the chart .

= = Music video = =

= = = Background and release = = =

On July 25 , 2012 Beyoncé left a message for her fans on her official website stating " Leave Your Footprints on 19 August 2012 " , the opening lyrics to the song . On July 27 , 2012 it was revealed that Beyoncé would be releasing a music video for the song as part of a global launch of World Humanitarian Day , held by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) . It was helmed by production company Ridley Scott & Associates and directors Kenzo Digital and Sophie Muller . Droga5 and RSA Films served as producers of the video with the animation done by Dirt Empire NYC . The campaign aimed to reach 1 billion people with a single message when it launched , further making social media history . Several illustrations were launched on Beyoncé 's website explaining how people could leave their mark on the world . The campaign was powered and measured by a new platform called Thunderclap created by creative shop DE @-@ DE which aggregated the social reach of campaign supporters . Droga5 's creative chairman David Droga further explained the decision to include Beyoncé for the World Humanitarian Day ,

" The hope , first and foremost , was to put this on people 's radar . Apart from the UN and a few newsreaders who mention this every year , people don 't even know this day exists . It 's also to make people realize it 's not just about volunteering to go and live in the Congo for four years . It 's as much about working a soup kitchen as it is helping an elderly person . Contributing something positive doesn 't have to be a lifelong commitment ; it can just be daily gestures . So , it was about giving the whole issue perspective ... One video and a message aren 't going to save everything . But when you say things together , maybe the message will be heard and hopefully will provoke action . Inherently people are good , and inherently people are distracted and somewhat lazy , so it comes down to how do you get people 's attention . "

Prior to the release of the video , Beyoncé said : " We all see the headlines and we think what can I really do to help ? ... World Humanitarian Day is an opportunity for all of us to work together to make a difference . This is our time to leave our mark on the world and show that we were here and we care . " During another interview posted on the UN website , Beyoncé said she was attracted to raising awareness on the day of recognition : " I found out that 22 people lost their lives helping people [in Baghdad] . I thought it was such an incredible thing to turn that into something positive and try to include the world into doing something great for someone else " . Another inspiration for Beyoncé to participate in the campaign were the finalists at the 2012 Do Something Awards and their humanitarian work . Beyoncé also enlisted the help of celebrities Gwyneth Paltrow , Rihanna , Lady Gaga , Justin Bieber , Chris Martin , Shakira , Jay @-@ Z and First Lady Michelle Obama to support the cause as well as Coca @-@ Cola , MTV , and Oreo . On August 3 , 2012 , Beyoncé released a black and white promotional video for the World Humanitarian Day . The video featured Beyoncé saying , " On August 19 . It 's high time we rise together . Do one thing for a human being . Nothing is too small . ? Make your mark and say I was here . " The music video was expected to be released simultaneously in the main platforms of television , cinema , projection screens and facilities prepared for buildings in New York , Dubai and Geneva , on August 19 . However , it premiered on August 18 , 2012 instead . The next day , it was released on the iTunes Store in the US . The performance of the song received positive reviews from music critics and celebrities who attended .

= = = Mapping and projection = = =

The video was filmed in front of a live audience at the United Nations General Assembly in New York on August 10 , 2012 . SuperUber worked on integration between animations and technology , the structure design and projection mapping that took over the General Assembly Hall after it was

invited by Kenzo Digital . 10 20K HLM Barco projectors were placed and mapping was done using Pandora 's widget designer and 5 Pandora 's Dual Box servers . The final video had an 8856 x 1664 resolution and was split into 10 slices of 1080 x 1664 pixels , since each projector was turned on its side and the images were projected vertically in order to cover the whole structure . Two slices were fed into each system and SuperUber did the warping and edge blending inside Pandora . The screen which was used was over 12 @, @ 000 square feet ; Lucas Wertheim , a representative for SuperUber commented that it was the largest indoor temporary screen that was a tilted compound curve adding that from an engineering standpoint , it is " extremely complex " . It was custom @-@ designed to mold to the inside of the General Assembly Hall . It spanned 68m X 15m and surrounded the audience with a 240 degree immersive projection . Ten synchronized and mapped projections covered the screen with 200 @, @ 000 lumens , creating one continuous giant image . The screen which weighed 1000 pounds was sewn by forty five people . The whole structure , which was hanging off the UN ceiling weighed 6000 pounds . Wertheim revealed , " In order to create the proper tension for the screen to hold its shape we had to weld permanent rigging points into the dome of the general assembly . " Peter Kirn of Create Digital Motion wrote that the projection mapping was performed onto a fairly simple surface : " What makes the mapping so effective is the way in which it can fill the space , making those pictures immersive on a grand architectural scale . It makes the image a real volume in which the performance can take place . " Russ Rive , SuperUber ? s director said , " It ? s an ambitious project that has completely transformed an iconic location ? seen as immutable and unchanging , with its goldplated panel and grand volume . By adding a virtual layer to it , we could digitally rebuild it , playing with the architectural elements , and therefore changing the notion of something static . The technology made the integration between animation and architecture . We used projectors to ' paint with light ' the UN General Assembly ? s Hall ? a unique opportunity to transform such an emblematic place . "

= = = Live performance and synopsis = = =

On August 10 , 2012 , Beyoncé appeared at the Assembly for the rehearsals prior to the performance . Julia Stiles , The @-@ Dream and Diane Warren were the celebrities who attended the performance . Prior to the performing the song , Beyoncé met with United Nations leader Ban Ki @-@ moon . Deputy Secretary @-@ General of the United Nations Jan Eliasson , announced Beyoncé 's performance giving a short introduction about the singer : " Tonight [she] brings more than her stunning talents ; she brings inspiration to help another person , to help another human being " . He further recalled a " dark day in the history of the U.N. " when 22 humanitarian workers lost their lives in a terrorist attack in Iraq on August 19 , 2003 adding that the event and the World Humanitarian Day both honor those lost lives and encourage others to join the effort . He further interviewed guests whose relatives lost their lives in the accident . Under @-@ Secretary @-@ General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos also appeared encouraging everyone to log on to the website WHD @-@ IWasHere.org by August 19 and commit to doing one good act to help someone in need further saying , " I told Beyoncé : It 's great that we have her , because she can reach millions of people . I could spend the rest of my life doing what I do , and I wouldn 't reach a 10th of that number . And she said : ' Don 't sell yourself short . ' "

Beyoncé appeared on stage wearing a floor @-@ length white gown with micro @-@ sequins from designer Marc Bouwer 's pre @-@ fall collection while her hair was pulled back in a sleek ponytail . She performed on a high @-@ rise stage with a big screen spanning from ceiling to floor behind her . As she sang , the screen filled with images of U.N. aid workers on the scene in various wars , famines , and floods around the world . Following the performance , she announced , " I 'd like to ask everyone to make sure they 're a part of August 19th ... It 's such a beautiful , beautiful day , and I 'd like to honor the 22 people who lost their lives . God bless you all . Thank you so much for having me . " The music video for the song starts with Beyoncé singing the song with the U.N. audience seated in front of her , and images from recent disasters screening in panoramic view behind her . As the song progresses , scenes of globes and constellations turn up ; laser lights and a small blue arrow , imprinted with the song 's title , trace a path along the globe . The performance

footage is also mixed with images of global volunteer efforts ; as the giant screen displays globe @-@ reaching graphics they morph into pictures of humanitarian work . The music video ends with the question " What Will You Do ? " and offers the official website for the World Humanitarian Day .

= = = Reception = = =

Following Beyoncé 's performance , American journalist Anderson Cooper who was present at the Hall and served as a host jokingly asked the crowd , " Is this what happens at the U.N. every Friday night ? Because , I 've gotta tell you ... I wanna be here every Friday night if this goes on . " Diane Warren described the performance as " one of the best experiences ever " in her life . The performance and the music video received positive reviews from critics , who praised Beyoncé 's live vocals . Pamela Falk of CBS News described the performance as " breathtaking " and " stunning " . Jim Farber of Daily News was also positive about the performance saying that she " delivered a powerful live vocal to the song 's musical track " . Molly O 'Brien of Prefix Magazine commented that the video was " simple and powerful : Beyoncé gives an impeccable live performance of the song ... On the album , ' I Was Here ' is pompous and a little cloying ; live and accompanied by those images , it 's got the same change @-@ the @-@ world flavor as Michael Jackson 's ' Man in the Mirror . ' " Nadeska Alexis of the same publication wrote that Beyoncé belted out her vocals while members of the audience sang along further noting that the moment ended " all too quickly " . A writer of OK ! magazine praised Beyoncé for being " striking as always " while belting out " I Was Here " in the video . MTV Act 's Jose Iniguez described the performance as " phenomenal , flawless , goosebump @-@ inducing , inspiring " adding that it gave him life and made him feel " gobbled up " by the presence of Beyoncé . He added that " I Was Here " couldn 't have been a better fit for the campaign and concluded that " Bey [oncé] was simply flawless . Her voice , her dress , her touching (yet short) address after her performance sent chills down very limb . " Mike Larkin from the Daily Mail described the performance as " spectacular " while praising the " virtual galaxy " created on the stage with " lavish " production values , Beyoncé 's " spine @-@ tingling " vocal rendition while hitting the high notes and her " fantastic " look complete with " dazzlingly glamorous white frock , which hugged her spectacular post pregnancy body in all the right places " .

Leslie Gornstein of E ! Online praised Beyoncé 's dress worn during the video , writing that " [it] reminds us of a long column of light " . Lisa Potter from Marie Claire described the floor @-@ length gown as " dramatic " . A writer of MTV News also praised Beyoncé 's " glamorous [look] in white " . A writer of Rap @-@ Up wrote in his review that the singer was " glowing " in her white dress , adding that she put her " powerful pipes on display as she belted out the empowering ballad " . E ! Online 's Sierra Marquina described Beyoncé 's look as " stunning " . Melissa Maerz of Entertainment Weekly described the gown as " sleek , space @-@ age white " and further praised Beyoncé for " belting out " the song emotionally with tears , comparing it with the live video from Live at Roseland : Elements of 4 . Sarah Bull of the Daily Mail generally praised Beyoncé 's look during the performance saying that she shows off her " stunning " curves in a " gorgeous " figure @-@ hugging outfit and added that the make @-@ up was kept simple for the performance . Adelle Platon of Vibe magazine praised Beyoncé 's look in a " stunning " white gown " belting against a backdrop of worldly images " . Jason Lipshutz of Billboard wrote that the images of global volunteer efforts during the video were " striking " . Peter Kirn from Create Digital Motion commented that the powerful projection used in the video " can make imagery big enough that it invites big thinking ? and debate " . Kirn concluded that " In the end , you see a performance in which neither Beyoncé nor the imagery upstages the other ? it ? s two powerful performances , not just one . " The Huffington Post 's Sarah Dean described the video as inspiring while " shining a spotlight on humanitarian work " . On August 29 , 2012 , according to Thunderclap 1 @-@ 13 billion messages were shared worldwide . The video was nominated in the category for Best Video with a Social Message at the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards on August 25 but lost to Macklemore 's " Same Love " .

= = Live performances = =

Beyoncé performed " I Was Here " live for the first time on August 14 , 2011 during her 4 Intimate Nights with Beyoncé in Roseland Ballroom , New York City . She performed the song in front of 3 @, @ 500 people wearing a gold dress and backed by her all @-@ female band and her backing singers , called the Mamas . " I Was Here " served as the closing song of the residency show with Beyoncé changing the line , on which the title of the song is based , to " Roseland , we were here . " Jason Newman of Rap @-@ Up magazine commented that " in less confident hands , the line would have come off as hokey . For Beyoncé , it was the recognition of a singular event before returning to the stadium . " According to Brad Wete from Entertainment Weekly , during the performance of the song Beyoncé " bowed , fanatic screams and cheers followed . " Mike Wass of Idolator wrote :

[Knowles '] ability to bring new depth and texture to quality material is almost as impressive as her uncanny knack for connecting with the audience on an emotional level . Take , for instance , the final song ? it was impossible not to be moved by [Knowles] as she fought tears while tackling the clearly personal lyrics of ' I Was Here ' .

Jody Rosen of Rolling Stone , who had given the song a negative review wrote that " on record , [' I Was Here '] was a hollow exercise in self @-@ mythologizing . On Sunday night , though , Beyoncé brought the song to life , singing with a tenacious mix of schmaltz and soul that evoked two of her heroes , Barbra Streisand and Aretha Franklin [...] It sounded less like bluster than confession . It was almost intimate . " Yolanda Sangweni of Essence magazine stated that ending the show with " I Was Here " was " triumphant note " and that " Diana Ross and Michael Jackson would be proud . " During the ITV special A Night With Beyoncé which aired on December 4 in the United Kingdom , Beyoncé performed " I Was Here " to a selected crowd of fans . The performance from A Night With Beyoncé was later broadcast on Dick Clark 's New Year 's Rockin ' Eve on December 31 , 2011 . A writer of Essence magazine noted that she performed a " powerful rendition " of the song further adding that she " looked and sounded glorious " . In May 2012 , during Revel Presents : Beyoncé Live , a video montage of Beyoncé holding her child Blue Ivy Carter , drinking a pint of Guinness , and going whale @-@ watching was shown while the song was played in the background , before she began singing the first verse of Whitney Houston 's " I Will Always Love You " .

= = = Live video = = =

The live performance for " I Was Here " as part of 4 Intimate Nights with Beyoncé , where it served as the closing song , was taped and premiered online on November 16 , 2011 . It was added on the DVD Live at Roseland : Elements of 4 , which was released in late November 2011 . The video begins with Beyoncé onstage in a shimmery silver minidress , giving the crowd a bit of a windup about where " I Was Here " came from . She says : " It 's taken a lot of hard work to get to where I am . I searched all around the world , and I found myself . You all are my inspiration . I want to sing this last song and dedicate it to all of you guys . " The video then turns into a career retrospective in the form of Beyoncé 's home movies and her professional highlights . It splices poignant memories throughout Beyoncé 's life , from her childhood , to partying and vacations with her family , to most of the locations she visited around the world , to her rise with Destiny 's Child into solo stardom and her love story with Jay @-@ Z. Also containing footage from major performances and awards shows , the clip begins with a young Beyoncé thanking the judges in a talent show and later doing the snake in her living room , performing in her TLC @-@ inspired neon overalls .

The clip briefly returns to the center of the stage where Beyoncé starts to belt out the ballad over a montage of other home videos . It later shows Beyoncé , as an adult , hugging Michael Jackson , performing with Prince , Tina Turner , her husband , and contains cameos by Oprah Winfrey and Nelson Mandela . The montage additionally contains moments of the everyday behind @-@ the @-@ scenes footage of Beyoncé ; her sometimes @-@ awkward teenage hair , Beyoncé playing on a Slip ' n Slide , playing with her nephew in a pool , frolicking on a beach , going for whale watching , and trying on her actual wedding dress at the 3 : 36 mark . Other footage includes : Beyoncé performing on her world tours in support of her second and third studio albums , her performance at

the 2011 Glastonbury Festival where she was the first major solo female headliner to appear on the Pyramid stage in over twenty years , a backstage scene of Beyoncé at the 52nd Grammy Awards , holding her six Grammy awards , which broke the record for most Grammy Awards won by a female artist in one night , The clip ends with Beyoncé revealing her baby bump on 2011 MTV Video Music Awards. a performance of " Run the World (Girls) " at the 2011 Billboard Music Awards , where she was given the Millennium Award for recognizing her career achievements and influence in the music industry .

Music critics generally welcomed the video as for most of her time in the spotlight , Beyoncé has been a strictly private celebrity . Melissa Maerz of Entertainment Weekly wrote that it was pleasant to see Beyoncé unguarded as it is a rare occurrence . He added that though the clip is a more professional @-@ looking than most people 's home movies , it remains the closest thing that fans have seen so far to " Bey [oncé] just being Bey [oncé] " . Similarly , Brent Woodie of The Christian Post commented about how the 2008 wedding of Beyoncé to Jay @-@ Z was kept very private ; there were no photographs or videos released from the event , leaving media and gossip columnists to speculate on the nuptials . He welcomed the clip for being the first behind @-@ the @-@ scenes footage of Beyoncé on her wedding day . Luchina Fisher of ABC News described it as " a home movie featuring highlights from Beyonce 's decorated life " and felt that it 's " the personal moments [in the video] the singer 's fans will no doubt devour " . Samantha Cortez of Daily News felt that the content of the video which included Beyoncé 's most personal moments and the lyrics of the song , " add even more sentiment to the video " . At the 43rd NAACP Image Award presented on February 17 , 2012 , the video for " I Was Here " was nominated in the category for Outstanding Music Video .

= = Cover versions = =

A cover version of " I Was Here " performed by Lea Michele was included on Glee 's soundtrack album Glee : The Music , The Graduation Album released on May 14 , 2012 . On November 29 , 2012 , Diamond White , a contestant of the second season of The X Factor in the US covered " I Was Here " . Michele Amabile Angermiller of The Hollywood Reporter noted that " Her performance had some pitch problems , but she pulled it out . " Daniel Fienberg from the website HitFix wrote that she made a smart choice with the performance of the song adding that there were " some sharp notes here and there , but she sings her heart out " . Bobby Olivier of The Star @-@ Ledger described White 's version as " pitchy " while Lisa de Moraes of The Washington Post wrote that she " blasts " through the song .

American Idol contestant Angela Miller performed the song during the twelfth season of the show in March 2013 . Michael Slezak of the website TVLine graded the performance with B- saying that " tears may have affected the vocal a bit " , while a writer from Daily Mail described her performance as " stunning " . Ericka Alston of Los Angeles Times wrote that Miller made " an appropriate choice " with the song . In September 2014 , Vanessa Hudgens covered " I Was Here " during the Voices On Point gala in Los Angeles held in support for LGBTQ students . She covered the song to honor Warren who received a Point Leadership Award at the event . Dutch singer Glennis Grace performed the song live on November 10 , 2014 during the Dutch national memorial ceremony in front of over 1600 relatives of the victims of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 .

= = Usage in media = =

On July 19 , 2011 , " I Was Here " provided the soundtrack for the 2011 FIFA Women 's World Cup Final . As reported by ABC News on September 11 , 2011 , Beyoncé paid tribute to the September 11 attacks with " I Was Here " on the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the event . On September 21 , 2011 , it was announced via PR Newswire that Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) would launch " a star @-@ studded " new Public Service Advertising (PSA) campaign and that the soundtrack for the campaign would be " I Was Here " . Nationwide , Boys & Girls Clubs provide high @-@ impact , affordable programs , and caring adult mentors , to keep kids on the path

to great futures , emphasizing academic success , good character and citizenship , and healthy lifestyles . The director , Ron Howard explained the reason behind choosing " I Was Here " as the soundtrack of their new PSA : " We wanted the most powerful piece of music possible , to underscore the dramatic message that what we do today to shape the future of our children is vitally important . We could not have picked a more moving track . Diane 's words and Beyonce 's delivery are over the top . " In November 2013 , the song was included on the relief album Songs for the Philippines ; the proceeds of it were donated to the Philippine Red Cross for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from 4 liner notes .

= = Charts = =