

= When I Look at You =

" When I Look at You " is a song by American singer @-@ songwriter and actress Miley Cyrus . The song was written by Hillary Lindsey and John Shanks , and produced by Shanks . It was released on March 26 , 2010 by Hollywood Records as the second and final single from Cyrus ' first EP , The Time of Our Lives (2009) . " When I Look at You " was featured on the 2010 romantic @-@ drama film The Last Song and its corresponding soundtrack , being used to promote the film . The song contains an instrumentation primarily based on piano , while its lyrics speak of a dream boy .

" When I Look at You " received average to mixed critical reception and was unable to duplicate the commercial success of Cyrus ' previous single , " Party in the U.S.A. " " When I Look at You " peaked at number 16 on the Billboard Hot 100 and charted within the top 30 on charts in Australia , Canada , and New Zealand . The song 's accompanying music video was directed by Adam Shankman . It features Cyrus playing a grand piano throughout several settings , including a beach and forest . Two other versions of the video were released : one replacing several scenes with clips from The Last Song and another featuring Bisbal . The song was included on her first world tour , the Wonder World Tour (2009) .

= = Background = =

" When I Look at You " was written by Hillary Lindsey and John Shanks . It was used to promote the 2010 film The Last Song , in which Cyrus stars as Veronica " Ronnie " Miller , an angry , rebellious adolescent forced to spend a summer with her estranged father . The song was first included on Cyrus 's 2009 extended play The Time of Our Lives and then on the film and its corresponding soundtrack . The song was initially to be included on Cyrus 's 2010 album Can 't Be Tamed ; however , it was decided to include it on the The Time of Our Lives as well as The Last Song because it fit the film 's concept well . According to Cyrus , when she sings " When I Look at You " , she thinks of family and love . " It 's kind of what this movie is all about " , she said . A remix version titled " Te Miro a Ti " , featuring Spanish singer David Bisbal was released later ; in it , Cyrus sings her lines in English , while Bisbal 's are mingled in both English and Spanish .

= = Composition = =

" When I Look at You " is pop song with a length of four minutes and eight seconds . According to Katie Byrne of MTV News , the song is a power ballad . The song is set in 34 time and has a moderate tempo of 138 beats per minute . It is written in the key of G @-@ flat major and Cyrus 's vocals span two octaves , from G3 to E5 . The song begins with piano in its intro and then transitions to Cyrus singing in a hushed tone . She begins to belt towards the second verse and an electric guitar solo follows the second chorus , showing the influence of country music on the song . It follows the chord progression E ? m ? G ? ? D ? ? C ? ? C ? . Jocelyn Vena , also of MTV News , interpreted the lyrics of " When I Look at You " to be about Cyrus ' dream boy . According to Byrne , the last line ? " You appear just like a dream to me " ? is very fantasy @-@ like .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical reception = = =

Reception from contemporary critics for the song has been average to mixed , with Variety magazine 's Lael Lowenstein calling it an " almost inevitable hit single " and Allmusic 's Heather Phares noting that " When she lets her ... ballad @-@ singing diva come to the fore , Cyrus really shines . " Phares added , " She is just as accomplished on the EP 's ballads " . Bill Lamb of About.com disagreed and stated , " the two ballad songs , ' When I Look At You ' and ' Obsessed , '

feel like throwaways . Miley Cyrus did have a big hit with the highly inspirational ' The Climb , ' but the ballads here flush out the distinctiveness in her voice and simply feel ordinary . " Michael Hann of the English newspaper The Guardian referred to " When I Look at You " as one of the " inferior ballads " on The Time of Our Lives . The song won the 2010 Teen Choice Award for " Choice Music : Love Song " .

= = = Chart performance = = =

In the United States , on the week ending January 23 , 2010 , " When I Look at You " debuted at number 88 on the Billboard Hot 100 . On the week ending April 17 , 2010 , " When I Look at You " ascended to its peak at number 16 , from its previous position at number 25 , on the Billboard Hot 100 . The song peaked at number 18 on Billboard 's Adult Contemporary Chart . The song first appeared on the Canadian Hot 100 at number 59 and peaked at number 24 . As of June 2013 , " When I Look At You " has sold 1 @, @ 319 @, @ 000 copies in the United States .

The song also made moderate success in Australia and New Zealand . The song entered the Australian Singles Chart at number 50 and , after three weeks of ascending the chart , reached its peak at number 19 . In New Zealand , " When I Look at You " debuted and peaked at number 27 . The song debuted at number 79 on the UK Singles Chart . On the week ending April 1 , 2010 , it debuted and peaked at number 45 on the Irish Singles Chart . In mainland Europe , " When I Look at You " peaked at number 23 on the Belgian Tip Singles Chart (Wallonia) and number 49 on the Swiss Singles Chart .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " When I Look at You " was directed by Adam Shankman , producer of The Last Song . The video was filmed on August 16 , 2009 in several outdoor settings in Savannah , Georgia . " The premise of the video for ' When I Look at You ' is to put together the relationships between Miley , the piano , and music , her relationship with Liam , her relationship to the song " , Shankman commented , in regards to the video 's concept . He believed Cyrus and Hemsworth had " great chemistry " while filming The Last Song and brought it into the set of the video . The video opens by showing a black grand piano alone on a pier , which transitions to a close @-@ up of Cyrus with her wavy hair styled loose . She is shown playing the piano in a long white dress . Australian actor Liam Hemsworth , who portrays Will Blakelee in The Last Song , appears next to the piano , Cyrus not being present . Throughout the rest of the video , Cyrus sings and plays the piano in a forest , the beach , and a mansion 's front yard . Cut @-@ scenes feature Cyrus and Hemsworth interacting romantically , at one point kissing in a wheat field . The video ends by , again , showing the piano alone in the pier . Two alternate versions of the music video were later released : one replaces the cut @-@ scenes of Cyrus and Hemsworth with clips from The Last Song , and another for the song 's remix featuring Bisbal . The latter version replaces cut @-@ scenes with shots of Bisbal signing in a forest and beach ; his scenes were directed by Marc Roussel .

The video was officially premiered on February 21 , 2010 on ABC Family , but was previously leaked to the Internet on September 11 , 2009 . Jocelyn Vena of MTV News congratulated Shankman for capturing romance in the video . She further commented , " Cyrus is definitely growing up , something she 's wanted to prove to the world for a while now . And although there 's nothing particularly jarring in the clip , the vibe shows that Cyrus is most certainly ready to leave Hannah Montana behind . " Jefferson Reid of E ! reviewed the version where clips from the film are used , and said the clips made production values high , " but also helping to keep things easy on the eyes " .

= = Live performances = =

Cyrus performed " When I Look at You " at the 2009 Wonder World Tour , her first world tour . She performed the song at each venue during the tour , wearing a black dress with tail that extended

below her knees . The performances began with large video screens surrounding the stage displaying The Last Song 's trailer ; the trailer premiered the on September 14 concert in Portland , Oregon , at the Rose Garden Arena , the Wonder World Tour 's opening night . Cyrus then emerged from the bottom of the stage while playing a white grand piano , sitting on a bench . Midway through the song , Cyrus stood up and continued performing while the video screens were brought down to Cyrus ' height . Cyrus described the performance as a " sneak preview " of The Last Song , adding that her excitement about the life imitating art scenario she experienced while filming The Last Song led her to show the movie on tour . Melinda M. Thompson of The Oregonian believed that by playing the piano at the opening night 's performance of " When I Look at You " , Cyrus " showcased her many talents and proved she really just beginning to grasp her star power . " Mikael Wood of The Los Angeles Times attended the September 22 concert in Los Angeles , California at the Staples Center and commented , " Once again , make @-@ believe Miley was more compelling than the real thing . "

Upon its release as a single , Cyrus performed " When I Look at You " on the ninth season of singing competition American Idol on March 24 , 2010 , the same week she mentored the contestants on the show . Dressed in a long , white satin dress , she began by sitting in a bench to play the piano and later standing up to sing ; the set was decorated with trees and twinkling outdoor lighting . Katie Byrne of MTV News commented , " Cyrus seemed to take her own advice by connecting with the audience and making eye contact during the dramatic performance . " Monica Herrera of Billboard said Cyrus , after mentoring the contestants , she " showed them how it 's really done " . Cyrus later performed the song on MSN Movies . Her first televised performance of the song outside the United States was at the Rock in Rio concert in Lisbon , Portugal on May 29 , 2010 . Cyrus was joined by David Bisbal to perform " When I Look at You " at the Rock in Rio concert in Madrid , Spain on June 4 , 2010 .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =