

= 11 (Bryan Adams album) =

11 is the eleventh studio album by Canadian singer @-@ songwriter Bryan Adams . The album was released by Polydor Records on March 17 , 2008 . 11 was the first release of new Adams material since Colour Me Kubrick in 2005 and the first studio album in four years since Room Service . Adams , Jim Vallance , Eliot Kennedy , Gretchen Peters , Trevor Rabin and Robert John " Mutt " Lange received producing and writing credits . Similar to Adams ' previous material , the themes in 11 are mainly based on love , romance , and relationships . 11 received generally mixed reviews from contemporary music critics .

Three songs were released from the album in various forms : " I Thought I 'd Seen Everything " , " Tonight We Have the Stars " and " She 's Got a Way " , of which all were released internationally . " I Thought I 'd Seen Everything " was the only one to have any lasting effects on the music chart , reaching mostly the Top 50 , Top 100 and Top 200 in Europe and Canada . Adams was nominated for a Juno Award in the category " Best Artist " in 2009 for this record .

The album peaked within the top ten in eleven territories worldwide , including Canada (with sales just below 10 @,@ 000 units in its first week) , the United Kingdom , Germany , Denmark and Switzerland . 11 charted within the top twenty in three other territories . The album has sold approximately half @-@ a @-@ million copies , which might be considered somewhat disappointing compared to Adams previous albums sales . However CD sales dropped for all artists during this time across the board .

The track " Flower Grown Wild " , was reportedly written about the now deceased Amy Winehouse .

= = Conception = =

In an interview on Canada AM , Adams said the title 11 was picked because it was his 11th studio album , when soundtrack album Spirit : Stallion of the Cimarron is included . In addition , Adams mentioned there was no hidden meaning behind the title , it was his eleventh studio release and contained eleven tracks , " there are no secondary meanings " as Adams later mentioned in an interview with the BBC . The album 's cover was taken during a photo shoot in a hotel in Switzerland , while Adams was doing a self @-@ photo story for an Italian men 's magazine . Adams ended up liking the photo so much that he ended up using it as the album 's cover

As with the previous album , Room Service , significant portions of the album were produced while on tour . According to co @-@ writer Jim Vallance modern technology and equipment made it a lot easier to record the album . Adams recorded the album while on tour , making use of the time between playing on stage and readying himself for the next gig . Vallance and Adams recorded the album normally while sitting backstage or in an hotel room with small devices which they usually carried along on tours , but especially during their off days . Adams , in an interview , mentioned that when recording a song , they needed to set up mattresses against the windows , and having microphones run through the toilet .

11 was originally going to be an acoustic record , aiming for the " soft @-@ hard approach " perfected by the British rock group , The Who . However , after a long tour , some of the acoustic songs started growing on him , which led to changes . Adams would record for a few hours , until he wheeled the whole recording kit back onstage . " It makes me a little more interested in going on tour , " he said in retrospect . Adams who was never fully committed to the idea of creating a full @-@ fledged acoustic album , decided not to after seeing an acoustic band opening for him during one of his concerts . What he saw made him certain that he was not able to create such an album .

= = Writing and themes = =

When the writing season for 11 had ended , Adams and his companions had written 30 songs . After a selection process , 19 of these songs were removed , however some of them made it to the deluxe edition released later in 2008 . The first single , " I Thought I 'd Seen Everything " was written

in 2007 , and went through two or three changes before Adams made the finishing touches . Originally , it had another title , and a different melody , and as Adams later put it ; " in the course of listening to the music and spending time with it , you do end up changing it .

Adams hadn 't worked together on an album with Vallance since the late @-@ 1980s . They teamed up after , as Adams said , " throwing ideas back and forth " from 2003 until the album was released . Vallance would send MP3 audio files by e @-@ mail to Adams during the recording seasons . Adams would then add some elements to them and send them back . They continued doing this until a song was completed ; Vallance claimed it took longer for them to write songs than during their previous collaborations , but felt the end product was just as good .

The main themes in the album , in Adams words are ; " searching for something " . The lyrical meaning behind track number four , " Oxygen " is what a person needs in order to survive . In other words " The person you are with is giving you the air you breathe " , and that people in general " need each other 100 % . " The album 's first single , " I Thought I 'd Seen Everything " is about keeping an open mind . " The theme of " Broken Wings " is about " somebody who taught me how to fly " , a metaphor which for " putting your trust in somebody who can give you faith and the belief that you can succeed . " " Something to Believe In " is based upon the affirmation of life and faith , while " Walk on By " warns the listener of distrustfulness . As with other albums , according to Adams , he likes to end the album with a melancholic song , such as " Something to Believe In " in 11 , it 's not the last track however . " Flowers Gone Wild " touches on the same theme as two songs he wrote in the early 1980s , " Cover Girl " and " The Best Is Yet To Come " , are based upon the murdered playboy bunny Dorothy Stratten . But also people with misplaced emotions and their unfulfilled needs , which are pushed forth by the media , which Adams says , leads people to lose their " sense of decency " . Adams explained further ; " It 's a sort of new love affair with an old story , devouring our celebrities and leaving them when we are done . "

= = Release = =

The finishing touches to the album were done in September 2007 , but the European release of the album was delayed until March 2008 . The album was released independently in the United States exclusively through Wal @-@ Mart and Sam 's Club retail stores on May 13 , 2008 . The deal was brokered one month after the albums international release . On October 5 , 2008 a Deluxe Edition of 11 was announced on Adams website . The album featured new tracks and contained a DVD . The Deluxe Edition was released on November 10 , 2008 in the UK , and November 11 , in Canada . The new CD featured the original 11 tracks , a new song " Saved " and the inclusion of two B @-@ sides , " Way of the World " and " Miss America " . The remix of " She 's Got a Way " replaces the original version , but includes another remix done by Chicane . The DVD features Adams , and his backing band , rehearsing the material from the album . It also contains behind the scenes footages .

= = = Critical response = = =

11 overall received mixed , but mostly unflattering reviews from critics . Music reviewer Chris Jones from the BBC wrote generally positively about 11 in his review . He concluded that it was another strong album , even if Adams voice sounded dispassionate on some tracks . The Canadian website Jam ! gave the album an average review . Reviewer Darryl Stedan found the lyrics clichéd , predictable and , while not criticising it , described it as an album " that didn 't really mean much . " Ryan Wasoba from the alternatively weekly magazine , Houston Press wrote favorably of the record in a backhanded way , commenting that 11 's appeal laid in its " inoffensiveness " and " digestibility " . In another favorable review , Daily Mail writer Adrian Thrills said the album highlight was " Oxygen " , commenting on the similarities with the music of Bob Dylan . Amy O 'Brian of The Vancouver Sun wrote favorably of the new album , while at the same time criticising it for its clichés , bad lyrics and for its too @-@ familiar melodies , and concluded , " It 's cheesy and overdone , but the truth is that it just might give Adams his first hit in a decade . "

Stephen Thomas Erlewine from AllMusic gave the record two out of five stars , saying that Adams ' " fondness for obvious hooks " had " flattened into clichés " . Matt O 'Leary from Virgin Media criticised the album for Adams 's " over @-@ familiar trademark " and very clichéd , made the over @-@ familiar sound of 11 a little more " irksome " . O 'Leary gave the album two out of five stars . The Sunday Times reviewer Steve Jelbert wrote , " Eleven studio albums into his career , the Canadian rocker returns with a set so devoid of surprises that it could easily have been created with a computer program . " He continued by criticising the album for what he saw as mundane lyrical metaphors , attempts of copying U2 and rigid one @-@ note basslines . He concluded however that the album was better than Lenny Kravitz latest effort , It Is Time for a Love Revolution . Chuck Arnold and Christina Tapper of People gave the album two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of four and stated that the 11 songs " show that , at 48 , Adams is still capable of capturing the essence of young , unbridled love . Sure , the guy can get sappy , but he 's always sincere . "

= = = Chart and commercial performance = = =

11 was Adams ' first studio album to be released in four years , since Room Service in 2004 . In the album 's first week of release it sold just below 10 @,@ 000 units in Canada , and debuted at number one on the Canadian Albums Chart and stayed on the chart for four weeks . This marked the first time since Waking Up the Neighbours in 1991 , that Adams was able to top the Canadian record chart . In the United States , it debuted at number 80 on the Billboard 200 on the charts issue date of May 31 , 2008 and stayed on the chart for four weeks . 11 was Adams ' first studio album since 18 til I Die in the US to crack the top 100 . 11 stayed longer on the American and Canadian record than did Room Service . 11 peaked at three on the European Albums Chart and stayed on the chart for ten weeks , the album and reached seven at the Independent Albums Chart and stayed there for five weeks . At the 2009 Juno Awards Adams was nominated for " Artist of the Year " due to 11 .

Internationally , 11 was a commercial success . The album peaked at number one in two countries , India and Switzerland . It also charted within the top ten in several countries , including the United Kingdom , Switzerland , India , Germany , Austria , Denmark , Portugal and The Netherlands . France was the album 's least successful charting territory , peaking within the top 200 at number 157 . Switzerland was the only country in Europe were 11 managed to top a record chart . After staying there for a full 13 weeks if fell off the chart from 81 . Because of sales of over 15 @,@ 000 units , the album was certified gold in Switzerland and Denmark . The album has sold over half a million units worldwide .

The first single , " I Thought I 'd Seen Everything " was released as a download only single in the UK on March 17 , 2008 . Although it was officially released to US radio on March 1 , 2008 , it proved somewhat popular on Adult Contemporary radio stations where it peaked at # 21 . In Canada " I Thought I 'd Seen Everything " was officially released to radio in March , 2008 . The song reached the top 50 on the Canadian Hot 100 where it peaked at # 47 . " Tonight We Have the Stars " , the second single , was released as a digital single on June 6 , 2008 . The third and last single , " She 's Got a Way " was released in September and did not chart anywhere in North America or Europe .

= = 11 Tour = =

In support of 11 , Adams started the " 11 concerts , 11 cities " tour , having concerts in 11 different countries in just 11 days . The intimate shows at some spectacular venues will see Adams perform an acoustic set , on stage , with just his guitar and harmonica . The London show was on the March 11 , 2008 at St. James Church in Piccadilly . The last stop of his 11 days concert tour was in Copenhagen , Denmark on March 17 . After the " 11 concerts , 11 cities " tour , Adams continued to promote his album , this time on an acoustic tour touring with such musical acts as Foreigner and Rod Stewart . Later , in an interview , he was asked what song he felt sounded the best acoustically , Adams responded ;

" Well , they all work acoustically , because they were all written on an acoustic guitar . This album

started out as an acoustic record and halfway through I sort of switched gears and decided to make sort of an acoustic rock record . When I play the songs live , it has actually sort of led me into a path of this next tour , which is my first American acoustic tour . I feel confident enough with these songs and with the songs in the past that the show is going to be quite interesting , sort of hearing these songs stripped down completely , just myself and a guitar . "

What is interesting is this was to be the beginning of Adams 's Bare Bones tour , which still tours the world in between his usually band shows .

= = Track listing = =

Source :

= = Personnel = =

There were 11 personnel members .

Bryan Adams ? guitar , vocals , bass (tracks 1 ? 3) , production

Keith Scott ? guitar (tracks 2 ? 5 , 7 , 9 , 12 ? 14)

Colin Cripps ? guitar (all except tracks 8 , 11 , 13) , backing vocals (track 7)

Gary Breit ? hammond organ , piano (tracks 1 ? 3 , 5 , 7 ? 10 , 12 , 14)

Eliot Kennedy ? bass (tracks 4 , 6 , 9 , 10 , 12 , 14) , piano (tracks 6 , 12) , backing vocals (tracks 7 , 13)

Norm Fisher ? bass (track 13)

Robert John " Mutt " Lange ? bass (track 5) , production (tracks 1 , 5)

Mickey Curry ? drums (tracks 1 , 6 , 7 , 9 , 13)

Pat Steward ? drums (tracks 2 ? 5 , 8 , 12 and 14) , tambourine (track 14)

Jim Vallance ? drums (track 10)

Máire Breatnach ? fiddle (track 8) , viola (track 11)

= = = Additional personnel = = =

There were 13 additional personnel members .

Pointless Brothers ? backing vocals (track 6)

Kathleen Edwards ? backing vocals (track 7)

Teese Gohl ? string arrangement (tracks 7 , 8)

Gavin Greenway ? string arrangement (track 11)

Hal Beckett ? string conductor (tracks 7 , 8 , 11)

Bob Clearmountain ? mixing

Olle Romo ? editing

Ben Dobie ? recording

Bryan Gallant ? additional recording

Kirk McNally ? additional recording

Roger Monk ? string recording (track 8)

Chicane ? remixer for track 15

J. Hockley ? additional production and recording for track 15

= = Charts and certifications = =