

= Miles Away (Madonna song) =

" Miles Away " is a song by American singer and songwriter Madonna from her eleventh studio album , Hard Candy . It was first released as a promotional single in Japan , during June 2008 , as the theme for the Fuji Television Japanese drama , Change . The song was released by Warner Bros. Records , as the third and final single from the album on October 17 , 2008 , and was subsequently included on her compilation album , Celebration (2009) . Written by Madonna , Justin Timberlake , Timbaland and Nate " Danja " Hills , " Miles Away " is a melancholy electronic ballad , which according to Madonna is autobiographical , and is inspired by her then husband Guy Ritchie . Lyrically , the song deals with long @-@ distance relationships .

" Miles Away " has received positive appreciation from music critics for being a harmonious and meaningful ballad . It reached the top forty in most countries , while peaking inside the top ten in Czech Republic , Netherlands , Hungary , Japan , Slovakia and Spain . It became the best @-@ selling digital single of 2008 in Japan and won three trophies at the 23rd Japan Gold Disc Awards . In the United States , the song did not appear on the Billboard Hot 100 , but became Madonna 's seventh consecutive number @-@ one song on the Hot Dance Airplay chart , the most for any artist . The song has been performed by Madonna in the promotional tour for the Hard Candy album and the 2008 ? 09 Sticky & Sweet Tour , during the gypsy segment of the show .

= = Writing and inspiration = =

The music for " Miles Away " was the first song of Hard Candy to be composed . After hearing it , Madonna began singing and writing the lyrics for the song . In an interview with MTV , Madonna said that the song was inspired by her then husband , Guy Ritchie . " So many people have to deal with long @-@ distance relationships . It 's not easy . You have to work hard to make it work . " When asked if the song was autobiographical , she said :

Probably in many respects most of the songs [on Hard Candy] are [autobiographical] . But in more of an unconscious way . I don 't really think about telling personal stories when I 'm writing music . It just comes . And then a lot of times , six months later , eight months later , I go , " Oh , that 's what I wrote that song about . " But that 's when I play the song for lots of people and they all go , ' Oh , I can totally relate to that ' . In ' Miles Away ' I 'm tapping into the global consciousness of people who have intimacy problems .

In an interview with The Daily Telegraph Madonna further explained her inspiration behind the song and stated that " [' Miles Away ' is] a song most people who work can relate to . If part of your work is travelling , and the person you are with also works and travels , you find yourself separated a lot and it can be very frustrating , [...] I 'm American and he [Ritchie] is British , and I have to come to America all the time . [...] Especially at the beginning of our relationship , that long @-@ distance thing was very frustrating . I also think it 's easier for people to say things from a distance ; it 's safer . "

= = Composition = =

Musically , " Miles Away " is a melancholy song with influences of ballad . The song carries the characteristic sound of Timbaland @-@ Timberlake production . Generally a downtempo , electropop song , " Miles Away " is accompanied by beats and backing vocals , which sing the lines " So far away " . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Alfred Publishing , the song is set in the time signature of common time , with a moderate tempo of 120 beats per minute . It is written in the key of A minor ; Madonna 's voice spans from the high @-@ note of G3 to the low @-@ note of C5 . " Miles Away " has a basic sequence of Am ? Em ? G ? F ? Am ? Em ? G ? F as its chord progression .

During recording , Timberlake sat down with Madonna and played a guitar riff composed by him , asking her how she wanted the song to sound . Madonna had " all these thoughts , riddles , poems , feelings , all written in huge notebooks , " Timberlake said , " and she kept handing them over . It

was amazing , taking these little bits here and there and putting them together like a puzzle . " In this way , one of the ideas they connected was the universality of long @-@ distance relationships , the pain and heartache of which they were able to incorporate in " Miles Away " . After recording it , Timberlake commented that he had helped in creating a classic Madonna song , saying " I couldn 't do a song like that , [...] I thought it was completely her . That was the trick . "

Lyrically , " Miles Away " deals with a relationship in trouble . Madonna said that it 's not difficult to express herself lyrically without giving away too much of her own privacy . Though Madonna has said before that the song is about Guy Ritchie , it has been speculated that lines from the lyrics of the song like : " You always have the biggest heart when we 're 6 @,@ 000 miles apart " , talked about the then failing marriage between Madonna and Guy .

= = Critical reception = =

Kerri Mason of Billboard called the song a harmonious ballad which , along with the single " 4 Minutes " , " might be some of her best work yet " . She also said that the song sounded familiar and compared it with Timbaland 's remixed version of the 2008 single " Apologize " . Caryn Ganz from Rolling Stone believed the song has a " melancholy pining " . Stephen Thomas Erlewine from Allmusic held the view that " the icy heartbreak of ' Miles Away ' " was " a worthy successor of Justin Timberlake 's 2006 single ' What Goes Around ... / ... Comes Around ' " . Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine said that the song has the typical ensuring quality of the production of Timbaland and Justin Timberlake , and bears the " pair 's distinct , modern stamp , making Hard Candy more than just a throwback to Donna Summer , Anita Ward , and Quaaludes . " Chris William from Entertainment Weekly made the observation that " Miles Away " was one of the " few actual confessions on this dance floor [Hard Candy] ? enough to give the tabs speculative fodder . " He also compared the song to " What Goes Around ... / ... Comes Around " . Jim Farber of the New York Daily News called it the album 's most beguiling tune .

Joan Anderman of The Boston Globe said that Madonna 's journey " from shameless seductress to thoughtful student produces nary a ballad , but some seriously bittersweet tones linger under the surface of these effusive tunes . " He also said that the song has a peace of mind quality in it . Joey Guerra from Houston Chronicle complemented the galloping beats and melodic backing vocals of " Miles Away " and said that it " sounds like late- ' 80s Madonna " . Alexis Petridis from The Guardian said Madonna sings " with the emotional engagement of a sat @-@ nav suggesting a right turn onto the A23 . " Miles Marshall Lewis of The Village Voice said that with " Miles Away " , Madonna comes closest " to reflecting on her married @-@ with @-@ children bliss (or lack thereof) . " Tom Young from the BBC called the song " genuinely good , genuinely felt " and compared it with some of Madonna 's other hit songs like " Holiday " , " Into the Groove " , " Ray of Light " and " Music " . Pete Paphides of The Times called the song " excellent " , and describing it as " a collision of acoustic downstrokes and feverishly jaunty rhythm that verges on reggae . " Thomas Hauner of PopMatters said , " At one point the album 's tediousness [...] is such that one assumes Ashlee Simpson and Britney have already passed on the material because even they deemed it too redundant . "

= = Chart performance = =

In the United States " Miles Away " charted on the Billboard Hot Dance Club Play chart and peaked at number two , kept from the top spot by the Pussycat Dolls single " I Hate This Part " . The song became Madonna 's ninth release to top the Hot Singles Sales chart , moving from number 31 to the top , and becoming the first number @-@ one song of the chart for 2009 . It debuted at number fifteen on the Hot Dance Airplay chart and reached number one in its December 27 , 2008 issue . This feat gave Madonna her seventh consecutive number one single on the Hot Dance Aiplay chart making her the artist with the most Dance Airplay hits on this chart . On the issue dated December 20 , 2008 , " Miles Away " debuted and peaked at number 99 on the Pop 100 chart but dropped off it the following week . The song debuted at number 90 on the Canadian Hot 100 . The next week it dropped out of the chart , but made a re @-@ entry and climbed up to the top forty , peaking at

number 23 for the issue dated December 13 , 2008 .

" Miles Away " achieved its strongest commercial reception in Japan , where it was used as the theme for Fuji Television drama Change . It was first released there as a promotional single in 2008 , following " 4 Minutes " . The song peaked at number seven on the Japan Hot 100 on May 30 , 2008 and stayed on the chart for 10 weeks . It became the best @-@ selling digital single of 2008 and received music certifications from the Recording Industry Association of Japan (RIAJ) ? platinum for 250 @,@ 000 PC downloads , and double platinum for 500 @,@ 000 master ringtones . At the 23rd annual Japan Gold Disc Awards , " Miles Away " won three awards as " Mastertone of the Year " , " Mobile Single Track of the Year " and " Online Single Track of the Year " . According to the RIAJ , the song has sold 681 @,@ 000 digital downloads as of April 2009 .

On November 30 , 2008 , the song entered the UK Singles Chart at number 39 , selling 5 @,@ 643 digital downloads . It dropped to number 68 the following week and then dropped off the chart . This ended a run of 63 consecutive top 20 UK hits for Madonna , stretching from 1984 through 2008 , as " Miles Away " became Madonna 's first ever single not to crack the UK top twenty . The track debuted at number 39 in the Dutch Top 40 on September 20 , 2008 and reached a peak of number ten on November 15 , 2008 . In Australia , the Thin White Duke Mix charted at number 28 on the Australian Club Charts . In Spain , " Miles Away " became her third consecutive single from Hard Candy to reach number one on the official singles chart . In other countries , " Miles Away " peaked within the top forty of the official charts .

= = Live performance = =

Madonna performed " Miles Away " during the promotional tour for Hard Candy and the 2008 ? 09 Sticky & Sweet Tour . In the promotional tour , Madonna performed " Miles Away " as the second song from the six @-@ song set list . Madonna wore a black dress with black tails , track pants and high @-@ heeled , lace @-@ up boots . She performed the song standing in front of the microphone while playing acoustic guitar . The backdrops showed graphical images of airplanes leaving London and arriving in New York , boarding passes and passports as well as airports .

In the Sticky & Sweet Tour , " Miles Away " was performed during the gypsy segment of the show . Madonna wore a gypsy inspired Givenchy long cape , over a black dress , with pink colored ribbons around her neck . She also wore black stockings on her leg . Before starting the song she said , " This is for all who know the struggle of long @-@ distance relationships . I know you 're out there . " While dancers gathered and sat down in a circle around her , Madonna went up on a platform , started playing the acoustic guitar and encouraged the crowd to clap and sing along . The screens give another message to the song , showing a stream of world maps and passport stamps and the history as well as journey of gypsies travelling around the world , adding to the atmosphere of that particular section of the show .

After the breakup between Madonna and Guy Ritchie was announced , during a performance of " Miles Away " in the Boston leg of the tour , she dedicated the song to the " emotionally retarded " . She then added , " You may know a few people who fall into that category ? God knows I do , " the line being a probable reference to Ritchie himself although this has not been confirmed .

= = Track listing and formats = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Madonna ? writer , vocals , producer

Timbaland ? writer , producer

Justin Timberlake ? writer , producer , background vocals , guitar

Danja ? producer , writer

Demacio " Demo " Castellon ? programming and mixing

Ron Taylor ? protocols

Dan Warner ? guitar
Hannon Lane ? additional keyboards

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =