

= Human Nature (Michael Jackson song) =

" Human Nature " is a song performed by American recording artist Michael Jackson . The lyrics describe a passer @-@ by in New York City . It was written and composed by Steve Porcaro and John Bettis , and produced by Quincy Jones . It is the fifth single from the singer 's sixth solo album , Thriller (1982) . Initially , Porcaro had recorded a rough demo of the song on a cassette , which was then given to Jones . Enjoying the demo , Jones brought in Bettis to finish the lyrics and had the ballad included on the " Thriller " album . The song was the last selected for the album , removing " Carousel " from the final track listing .

" Human Nature " was released on July 3 , 1983 , as the album 's fifth single . Although not released in the UK , the song achieved chart success in the US . Reaching number two on Billboard 's Hot Adult Contemporary chart and number seven on the Hot 100 , the song became Jackson 's fifth Top 10 hit from " Thriller " . In New Zealand the single reached number 11 . The ballad garnered many positive reviews from music critics . " Human Nature " has been covered and sampled by numerous artists , including Stevie Wonder , Vijay Iyer , John Mayer , Miles Davis , SWV , ELEW , Nas , 2Cellos , Jason Nevins , Danny Chan , David Mead and Chris Brown .

= = Production = =

" Human Nature " was written and composed by Steve Porcaro of Toto and John Bettis for Michael Jackson 's Thriller album . Initially , Porcaro recorded a rough demo of the song on a cassette . He had written the song after his first grade daughter came home crying because a boy pushed her off the slide . He blurted out three reasons for the incident to comfort her : one the boy liked her , two people can be strange and three it 's human nature . Fellow Toto band member David Paich gave the demo , along with two songs written by Paich , to producer Quincy Jones , hoping they would be included on Thriller . Jones did not think Paich 's songs were right for the album , but enjoyed the rough demo of " Human Nature " at the end of the cassette . Jones explained , " All of a sudden , at the end , there was all this silence , there was : ' why , why , dah dah da @-@ dum dah dah , why , why ' . Just a dummy lyric and a very skeletal thing ? I get goosebumps talking about it . I said , ' This is where we wanna go , because it 's got such a wonderful flavor ' " . However , Jones was dissatisfied with the original lyrics and so Bettis , who had written lyrics for hits by The Carpenters and The Pointer Sisters , among others , was asked to add lyrics to the song . He completed the song in two days . The producer asked if the song could be included on Jackson 's album , to which Porcaro and Bettis agreed . " Human Nature " was the last song selected for Thriller , ousting " Carousel " from the final track listing .

= = Release and reception = =

" Human Nature " was released on July 3 , 1983 , as the fifth single from Thriller . Although not released in the UK , the song achieved moderate chart success in the US . Reaching number two on Billboard 's Hot Adult Contemporary chart and number seven on the Hot 100 , the song became Jackson 's fifth Top 10 hit from Thriller . " Human Nature " charted at number 27 on the R & B singles chart . In the Netherlands the single reached number 11 .

John Rockwell , of The New York Times , stated that " Human Nature " was a " haunting , brooding ballad " with an " irresistible " chorus . Allmusic noted that the " gentle and lovely " " Human Nature " coexisted comfortably with the " tough , scared " " Beat It " . They later added that the song was a " soft rocker " . Reflecting on Thriller , Slant expressed their fondness of the song , stating that it was " probably the best musical composition on the album and surely one of the only A / C ballads of its era worth remembering " . The magazine added that the track 's " buttery harmonies " were powerful . Stylus also praised the song , describing it as " the smoothest of ballads " . They further added that the music " does little to embody the song 's message " and that it couches Jackson 's " glazed voice " in " bubble synths and drum pillows " .

About.com 's Bill Lamb looked back on the track 25 years after its release . He felt that the song "

set down a blueprint for what would become known as adult R & B ". Kelefa Sanneh of Blender described the " soft @-@ serve balladry " of the song as a " silk @-@ sheets masterstroke ". In a 2008 IGN review , Todd Gilchrist explained that the elements of " Human Nature " worked better today than they did before . He added that it may be because modern R & B " sucks " . Tom Ewing , reviewer for Pitchfork Media , described the song as " meltingly tender " , with MTV adding that it was an " airy ballad " . Rolling Stone claimed that the " most beautifully fragile " " Human Nature " was so open and brave it made " She 's Out of My Life " seem phony . The Los Angeles Times concluded that it was Jackson 's delivery that made the " middling ballad " take off .

Vogue cites the poster for starting one of the hottest trends in costume jewelry that year . ? Several years back he borrowed three heraldic @-@ style brooches -with crests , crowns , and Maltese crosses- for a poster he was shooting , and the minute that poster came out , everybody wanted brooches , ? says Connie Parente in the Vogue interview . Connie Parente is the popular Los Angeles jewelry collector who gave the pieces for the shoot , close to the photographers and Michael Jackson 's personal stylist at the time Jyl Klein .

= = Live performances = =

The song was first performed during The Jacksons ' Victory Tour . Michael started to sing " Ben " , but stopped and proceeded to sing " Human Nature " . It was also performed during Michael 's Bad World Tour and Dangerous World Tour . Jackson performed the song live for the last time during his 1996 Royal Brunei concert . It was going to be performed for Jackson 's This Is It concerts , but they were cancelled due to his death , however it was included on the posthumous album to coincide with the concerts . Live versions of the song are available on the DVDs Live at Wembley July 16 , 1988 and Live in Bucharest : The Dangerous Tour .

= = Charts = =

= = Track listing = =

45 RPM :

" Human Nature " (7 " remix) ? 3 : 47 (Misprinted as 4 : 06)

" Baby Be Mine " ? 4 : 20

= = Official remixes = =

Album version ? 4 : 06

7 " remix ? 3 : 47 (This version features an alternate synth before the bridge and several bars are cut after the final verse . The only digital source is the 3 " CD single for " Thriller " released in Japan in 1987 .)

Edit ? 3 : 46 (This edit from the Essential Collection is an attempt at re @-@ creating the original 7 " version , however it does not match the instrumentation .)

Live ? 4 : 29 (This version is taken from Live at Wembley July 16 , 1988 and included in the deluxe edition of Bad 25 .)

" Speechless " / " Human Nature " ? 3 : 18 (Immortal version)

= = Cover versions = =

In 1984 , the song was first covered by Philadelphia saxophonist George Howard in his album Steppin ' Out .

In 1985 , American jazz artist Miles Davis included a cover version of the song on his album You 're Under Arrest . At the time , Rolling Stone described the track 's inclusion on the album as " glorified filler " . The Seattle Post @-@ Intelligencer disagreed , stating it was " particularly good " . In

extended and reworked versions , the song would soon become a staple of Davis ' concerts during his last years , with Kenny Garrett soloing on saxophone . There are several recorded live takes , notably an impassioned version on the Miles in Paris video and album , recorded in 1989 .

In 1991 , Hong Kong singer Danny Chan covered this song in Cantonese

In 2003 , Brass band Youngblood Brass Band (from Oregon , Wisconsin , U.S.) recorded a Riot Jazz version of the song under the name " Human Nature Pt . 2 " on their album Center : Level : Roar .

In 2004 , Boyz II Men included a Latin @-@ style cover of the song on their Throwback , Vol . 1 album .

In 2004 , Filipina pop singer Kyla covered the song from her album , Not Your Ordinary Girl .

In 2004 , Nashville singer @-@ songwriter David Mead also recorded a version of " Human Nature " for his release , Indiana , which featured Butterfly Boucher .

In 2008 , jazz fusion / contemporary jazz pianist David Benoit covered the song from his renditions album Heroes .

In 2009 , on July 7 John Mayer performed an instrumental version of the song at Jackson 's public memorial service .

In 2009 , Mario covered the song in memory of Michael Jackson .

In 2010 , Jazz pianist Vijay Iyer included a solo piano version of the song in his album Solo ; in 2012 , he included a trio version of it in his album Accelerando .

In 2010 , Brazilian star Ivete Sangalo recorded the song for their DVD live at Madison Square Garden .

In 2010 , Heather Peace covered the song on her acoustic album This Is Me .

In 2010 , singer Craig David sang an acoustic cover of the song .

In 2011 , Toto (whose band members wrote the song and performed the background music on Michael Jackson 's original version) performed the song in memory of Jackson and a dedication to Mike Porcaro during their 2011 tour . Joseph Williams was the lead vocalist . Toto continued to perform this as a cover on their 2012 tour .

In 2011 , at the induction of John Bettis into the Songwriter 's Hall of Fame , Skylar Grey performed the song using a lap dulcimer .

In 2011 , Marcus Miller covered the song on his album Tutu Revisited ? Live 2010 .

In 2012 , Amber Riley and Chord Overstreet (respectively as their characters Mercedes Jones and Sam Evans) covered this song in Glee 's episode " Michael " (aired on January 31) . This cover debuted and peaked at number 56 at Billboard Hot 100 , number 31 at Billboard Hot Digital Songs , and number 62 at Billboard Canadian Hot 100 chart at the week of February 18 , 2012 .

In 2013 , Australian singer Taylor Henderson recorded a version for his album Taylor Henderson .

In 2014 , Tori Amos performed a cover , in a live mash @-@ up with " Torn " by Ednaswap / covered by Natalie Imbruglia , at the Britt Festival in Jacksonville , OR .

In 2014 , Justin Timberlake covered this song during his The 20 / 20 Experience World Tour , almost every concert of the tour .

In 2015 , the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra performed an instrumental version during their " Unforgettable : An Evening with Natalie Cole " concert at Music Hall in Cincinnati , Ohio .

= = = Sampling = = =

In 1992 , " Human Nature " was sampled by R & B group SWV . Titled " Right Here / Human Nature " , the song was a remix of the group 's " Right Here " . The song was later included on the soundtrack album of Free Willy , alongside Jackson 's " Will You Be There " .

In 1997 , " Human Nature " was sampled by R & B singer Aaliyah for the pop / R & B version of the song titled " Journey to the Past " for the 1997 animated film Anastasia soundtrack .

SWV 's remix was sampled by the late American rapper Tupac Shakur on " Thug Nature " , from the 2001 posthumous album Too Gangsta for Radio .

In 1994 , New York @-@ based rapper Nas sampled the song for his track " It Ain 't Hard to Tell " from his debut album Illmatic .

Jason Nevins , a DJ from New York City , sampled Jackson 's track on " I 'm in Heaven " , which also featured vocals by Holly James .

In 2003 , American R & B group BLACKstreet 's " Why , Why " also sampled " Human Nature " . The song appeared on the album Level II .

In 2006 , R & B / pop artist Ne @-@ Yo used a sample of " Human Nature " for his remix version of " So Sick " , which also featured rapper LL Cool J. The remix released later on LL Cool J 's album Todd Smith .

In 2006 , " Human Nature " was remixed by Japanese drum and bass producer Makoto together with The Specialist .

In 2007 , singer Tyra B (Tyra Bolling) sampled and did a remix version including parts of Jackson 's " Human Nature " with her song " Givin ' Me a Rush " as well as Paula Abdul 's " Rush Rush " .

In 2009 , following Jackson 's death on June 25 , the American rappers Yung Berg and Lil Wayne sampled " Human Nature " on their tribute song " We Miss You " .

In 2011 , English singer and musician , Floetry 's Marsha Ambrosius briefly sampled the song on the track " I Want You to Stay " from her debut album Late Nights & Early Mornings .

In 2011 , American pop singer Chris Brown sampled " Human Nature " and SWV 's remix version for the fourth single " She Ain 't You " from his album F.A.M.E ..

In 2013 , Eurovision 2011 winners Ell & Nikki sampled " Human Nature " on their tribute song " Music Still Alive " .

In 2015 , " Human Nature " was sampled by American rapper Ludacris on " This Has Been My World " , from the album Ludaversal .

= = Personnel = =

Written and composed by Steve Porcaro and John Bettis

Produced by Quincy Jones

Michael Jackson : vocals

David Paich : synthesizer

Steve Porcaro : synthesizer , synthesizer programming

Steve Lukather : guitar

Jeff Porcaro : drums

Paulinho Da Costa : percussion

Michael Boddicker : E @-@ mu Emulator

Arrangement by David Paich , Steve Porcaro and Steve Lukather