

= The Time of Our Lives ( EP ) =

The Time of Our Lives is the first extended play ( EP ) by American recording artist Miley Cyrus . The EP was released on August 28 , 2009 by Hollywood Records , initially as a United States ' Walmart exclusive . With alterations in artwork and track listing , an international edition was issued October 16 , 2009 . The Time of Our Lives was conceived as a release to accompany Cyrus ' newly launched apparel line with Max Azria . The tracks on the EP were primarily composed by John Shanks and Dr. Luke , who also produced their respective cuts . Cyrus co @-@ wrote one out of seven songs on The Time of Our Lives ; one is a cover and another is a live rendition . Musically , the uptempo tracks on the record are in the pop rock and dance @-@ pop genres while ballads are largely soft rock . Lyrically , it explores the themes of romantic relationships , among other subjects .

The Time of Our Lives received generally positive reactions from critics , with some reviews suggesting that the EP was an effective step into adulthood for Cyrus . Some reviews were critical of the ballads which appear on the record , however . The EP was a commercial success , charting within the top ten in nine countries . In the United States , The Time of Our Lives peaked at number two on the Billboard 200 and was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) . Moreover , the EP had success internationally , peaking at number three in Greece , number five in Austria , and number six in Spain .

Two singles were released from The Time of Our Lives . The lead single , " Party in the U.S.A. " , became Cyrus ' best @-@ selling effort up to that point , peaking at number two in the Billboard Hot 100 . It also became one of the best @-@ selling singles in the United States and Hollywood Records ' best- and fastest @-@ selling single . The second and final single released from the EP was " When I Look at You " . It was used to promote the 2010 film The Last Song , which Cyrus starred in . Unable to match " Party in the U.S.A. " ' s success , the single appeared in the top twenty of charts in Australia and the United States . Cyrus performed songs from The Time of Our Lives live numerous times . Her performance at the 2009 Teen Choice Awards caused a media uproar because of its sexuality . She embarked on her first world tour , the Wonder World Tour , to promote the EP in late 2009 .

= = Background = =

In order to support Cyrus ' then newly launched , joint apparel line with Max Azria , sold exclusively by Walmart stores , an EP was chosen for release . " I feel it goes perfect for that kind of look " , she commented . For Cyrus , The Time of Our Lives was a transitional EP and a method of re @-@ introducing herself to new audiences . Speaking about the EP 's sound , she said , " I kind of kept it in the lines of what I usually do , which is kind of a pop rock sound ? I don ' t even like using the word ' rock , ' because I feel like it ' s an honor to be put in that title . This is kind of my transition . The next record , I definitely want to be able to step it up a bit . " Cyrus originally planned for her succeeding album to be edgier and more predominant in rock music . She said that , after completing promotion for The Time of Our Lives , she wanted to " step out and maybe take a break " for some time in order to compose music that inspires her . Cyrus ' next album , Can ' t Be Tamed was released approximately ten months later , on June 18 , 2010 .

At first , The Time of Our Lives was exclusively released through the American retail company Walmart , available in American stores and at Walmart.com. The album was originally planned for release on August 31 , 2009 , but because of a confusion at various stores , the album was released three days prior than intended . Several months afterwards , an international edition was released in numerous countries , beginning with the United Kingdom on October 16 , 2009 . With the addition of " The Climb " from Hannah Montana : The Movie , released earlier in 2009 , the edition also featured new cover artwork , with photography by Annie Leibovitz . On January 5 , 2010 , the EP became available for purchasing on other digital retailers in the United States .

= = Development = =

Cyrus recorded a cover version of " Kicking and Screaming " , written by John Shanks and Kara DioGuardi , and originally recorded by Ashlee Simpson for her 2005 album I Am Me . " Party in the U.S.A. " was written by Dr. Luke , Claude Kelly , and Jessica Cornish . The song was not originally meant for Cyrus to perform , but , once it reached Cyrus , the writing team reworked the lyrics , intending to write an accompanying theme for the clothing line . In order to please audiences , Dr. Luke , Kelly , and Cornish fixated on composing a fun , upbeat song that narrated reflections of Cyrus ' personality . To write his contributions to the song , Kelly said he tried to mimic Cyrus ' songwriting : " It ' s the same song from a different point of view , you just have to find that unique perspective . " Cyrus was pleased with the song and selected it partially due to the need for tracks to appear on The Time of Our Lives . " When I Look at You " , written by Shanks and Hillary Lindsey , was initially to be included on Cyrus ' succeeding album ; it was eventually chosen to promote the 2010 film The Last Song after Cyrus recognized that 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 . The title track , " The Time of Our Lives " , was composed by Dr. Luke , Kelly , Kesha Sebert ( known as Ke \$ ha ) , and Pebe Sebert . Kesha co @-@ wrote her contributions to " The Time of Our Lives " with the ideal of constructing a party anthem for young audiences , based on her first impression of Cyrus ' personality ; comedic and likable .

" Obsessed " was written by Roger Lavoie . Because the EP 's production personnel did not understand it , the song was at first denied of inclusion . However , once " Obsessed " reached Cyrus , she continually insisted the track be included on the EP because she felt related to it . Cyrus described the song as depicting the emotions one feels when one cannot stop thinking of a person and believed it related to numerous fans having their first love . " It 's a really romantic song " , she concluded . " Before the Storm " , originally released on the Jonas Brothers ' fourth studio album Lines , Vines and Trying Times ( 2009 ) , is included on The Time of Our Lives as a live rendition . The song was written by Nick Jonas , Joe Jonas , Kevin Jonas , and Cyrus . At first , the song was solely written by the Jonas Brothers for their third studio album A Little Bit Longer ( 2008 ) , but did not make the final cut . Nick and Cyrus later reworked the song 's lyrics to fit their past romance using a grand piano .

= = Composition = =

" Kicking and Screaming " is the most prominent representation of rock music on The Time of Our Lives . The track features instrumentation that relies on glam electric guitar riffing and ragged , gutsy vocals , which , at several points , feature a gravelly element . It results in an uptempo electronic rock number . Lyrically , " Kicking and Screaming " is a merciless message to an ex @-@ boyfriend . " Party in the U.S.A. " mixes R & B and pop music elements while having instrumentation that includes a " clash between feathery jazz guitar chords and a booming synth bassline serving as a hook " . Cyrus ' vocals display an undertone of alternative country twang and features belter refrains . The lyrics for " Party in the U.S.A. " discuss Cyrus ' relocation from Nashville , Tennessee to Hollywood , California . The refrains mainly speak of how her favorite songs make her feel more confident . " When I Look at You " is a power ballad that transitions in instrumentation , from piano to electric guitar . Throughout the song , Cyrus keeps a hushed tone , but starts to belt soon before the arrival of the second verse . Lyrically , it speaks of a dream lover . " The Time of Our Lives " is a bouncy , dance @-@ pop song characterized by 1980s synths and a fizzy sound caused by a bubblegum pop background . Cyrus ' processed vocals display a prominent use of auto @-@ tune ; influences derive from new wave music . The song 's lyrics talk about not worrying so much about the future and simply focusing on the present and having a good time together . " Talk Is Cheap " is a pop @-@ punk , garage rock song with disco influences and a number of hooks . " Talk Is Cheap " features lyrics that speak of being extremely irritated after encountering predicaments at a club and others smoking cigarettes . " Obsessed " is a power ballad with soft rock characteristics and husky vocals . " Obsessed " ' s lyrics deal with teenage lust . " Before the Storm " is a country pop ballad about a melancholic romantic breakup .

= = Singles = =

" Party in the U.S.A. " was released on August 11 , 2009 as the lead single from The Time of Our Lives through digital distribution . It received praise from critics for its musical composition , reflecting aspects of R & B and catchy effect . " Party in the U.S.A. " was also a commercial success for Cyrus ; it charted within the top ten of eight countries . In the United States , the song peaked at number two , becoming Cyrus ' best @-@ charting single up to that point and the sixth best selling digital single of 2009 . It was also deemed Hollywood Records ' fastest and best @-@ selling single to date . The single was certified triple platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) and quadruple platinum by the Canadian Recording Industry Association ( CRIA ) . A music video for " Party in the U.S.A. " , directed by Chris Applebaum , was set mainly at a drive @-@ in theater and pays tribute to the film Grease ( 1978 ) and Cyrus 's parents ' courting days .

" When I Look at You " was released to promote the film The Last Song , which Cyrus ' starred in and became the EP 's second and last single . " When I Look at You " received average to mixed critical reception , ranging from " inevitable hit single " to " inferior ballad " , and was unable to duplicate the commercial success of " Party in the U.S.A. " Its highest international peak was achieved in the United States , where it reached number sixteen , followed by Australia , where it peaked at number eighteen . The song 's accompanying music video was directed by Adam Shankman . It features Cyrus playing a grand piano in several settings , including a beach and forest .

= = Promotion = =

Cyrus ' first live performance of " Party in the U.S.A. " was at the Teen Choice Awards held on August 10 , 2009 . Clothed in a tank top that revealed a portion of her bra , black hot pants , and leather boots , Cyrus and her backup dancers appeared from a trailer . Midway through the performance , Cyrus danced atop an ice cream cart with a pole ( which was suggested to be a dance pole by numerous critics ) for approximately forty seconds . The performance was met with a media uproar , with some critics suggesting that her dancing was too suggestive and sexual for a teen @-@ oriented event , which caused The Walt Disney Company to issue a statement distancing themselves from the performance . Other critics came to Cyrus ' defense , stating that viewers should have fixated on her accomplishments that night , winning six awards , rather than the sexuality of the performance . In continuation , Cyrus promoted the EP on The Today Show and VH1 Divas in the United States . In December , Cyrus undertook promotion in the United Kingdom at 95 @. @ 8 Capital FM 's Jingle Bell Ball , the Royal Variety Performance ? the annual gala for the British Royal Family ? and various other venues .

" The Time of Our Lives " was released for airplay , exclusively on Radio Disney , in order to promote the EP . " The Time of Our Lives " peaked at number twenty @-@ three on the Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles Chart ( Billboard Hot 100 ? 123 ) and at number fifty @-@ one on the Canadian Hot 100 . Cyrus embarked on her second concert tour , the Wonder World Tour , to promote The Time of Our Lives and her second studio album Brekaout ( 2008 ) . The tour was Cyrus 's first to not have her costumed as Hannah Montana , and was announced in June 2009 , with dates revealed for American venues . Dates for venues in the United Kingdom were later announced . In to order to avoid the extensive scalping that occurred during her previous tour , all tickets were sold exclusively through paperless ticket delivery , which required audiences to bring identification to gain entry into the concert . The tour expanded from September to December 2009 .

= = Critical reception = =

The Time of Our Lives received generally positive reviews , earning a collective score of 63 out of 100 on Metacritic . Bill Lamb of About.com said , " Cyrus is developing one of the more distinctive vocal instruments in current pop music , and her songs are turning slowly to reflective adult

concerns . Consistent growth and improvement is the key here , and looks likely to turn Miley Cyrus into a long @-@ term pop star . " Lamb did , however , state that the ballads on The Time of Our Lives were throwaways . Heather Phares of Allmusic thought otherwise , saying that the EP 's highlights came when Cyrus " lets her inner rock chick and ballad @-@ singing diva come to the fore . " Phares stated that " If Breakout began to establish Miley Cyrus as a singing star in her own right , free of Hannah Montana baggage , then this Walmart Exclusive EP is another confident step in that direction . " Phares concluded that the EP was a good representation of Cyrus 's vocal growth and presumed that her vocal abilities would enhance further as she grew into an adult . Mikeal Wood of Entertainment Weekly graded The Time of Lives a B + because of its execution of various musical styles and genres .

Nick Levin of Digital Spy reviewed The Time of Our Lives , saying that , although not offering much original material , it did provide evidence that Cyrus could successfully dump her Disney Channel @-@ affiliated image . He said that each of " the six genuinely new songs " are worth listening to , resulting in a worthwhile EP release . Michael Hann of The Guardian felt that Cyrus managed to project a very wholesome image of herself but argued that she did not succeed in convincing adult audiences there was anything else to her : " She has her name on plenty of inventive , imaginative and precisely calibrated examples of modern chart pop , songs that would have been noticed beyond her audience of young girls had they come from a more credible source " . Jessica Holland of British newspaper The Observer wrote a favorable review of the EP , noting : " Still not yet 17 , Miley doesn 't need to worry about slipping yet . " Jaime Gill of Yahoo ! Music described the uptempo numbers on the EP as " brilliantly feisty skate pop " but described the record 's ballads as tedious . Gill concluded that , if Cyrus were to take her music more seriously , instead of releasing albums in between various other projects , she might make a great pop album and stated that " As it is , The Time Of Our Lives is a great pop EP drowning in a sea of bilge . "

= = Commercial performance = =

On the week ending September 12 , 2009 , The Time of Our Lives entered the Billboard 200 at number three , selling a total of 62 @,@ 000 copies and becoming Cyrus 's eighth release to chart within the top ten . The EP peaked at number two in the following week due to a 154 percent increase in sales ( 153 @,@ 000 copies sold ) . Spending another consecutive week at its peak , The Time of Our Lives continued to sell strongly throughout the remainder of 2009 . On the week ending December 12 , 2009 , the EP experienced a sudden increase sales , rising from number twenty @-@ nine to number seven with sales of 150 @,@ 000 copies . The Time of Our Lives was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) for shipments of over one million copies . It debuted and peaked at number nine on the Canadian Albums Chart on the week ending January 30 , 2010 .

On the week ending November 11 , 2009 , the EP debuted and peaked at number eleven on the Australian Albums Chart . It later dropped to number thirteen and ascended and descended until its last week on the chart on May 18 , 2010 . The Time of Our Lives was certified gold by the Australian Recording Industry Association ( ARIA ) for shipments exceeding 35 @,@ 000 copies . The Time of Our Lives entered the New Zealand Singles Chart at its peak of number nine . In the following week the EP dropped to number eleven , where it stayed for two consecutive weeks . It was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand ( RIANZ ) for shipments exceeding 7 @,@ 500 copies . On the fourth week ending of January 2010 , The Time of Our Lives debuted at number ten on the Japanese Albums Chart , selling an estimated 15 @,@ 000 copies . In its second week on the chart , the EP descended to number nineteen .

On the week ending November 26 , 2009 , the EP debuted and peaked at number seventeen on the UK Albums Chart . The Time of Our Lives was certified gold by the British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) for shipments of 100 @,@ 000 copies . In Ireland , it peaked at number nine and was certified platinum by the Irish Recorded Music Association ( IRMA ) for shipments exceeding 15 @,@ 000 copies . In mainland Europe , The Time of Our Lives peaked at number thirty @-@ three on the European Top 100 Albums Chart , number five on the Austrian Albums Chart , number nine

on the German Albums Chart , and number three on the Greek Albums Chart . On the week ending November 1 , 2009 , it debuted and peaked at number six in Spain , where it was also certified platinum by the Productores de Música de España ( PROMUSICAE ) for shipments of more than 60 @, @ 000 copies . Elsewhere in Europe , the EP reached the top twenty of charts in the Czech Republic and Portugal .

= = Track listing = =

Notes

^ a signifies a vocal producer

^ b signifies a live producer

^ c signifies an additional producer

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

As listed in the liner notes .