

= Lift Off ( song ) =

" Lift Off " is a song by Jay @-@ Z and Kanye West featuring American recording artist Beyoncé . It was written by Kanye West , Jay @-@ Z , Jeff Bhasker , Mike Dean , Bruno Mars and Seal , while production was handled by West , Bhasker , Mike Dean , Q @-@ Tip , and Don Jazzy for Jay @-@ Z 's and West 's collaboration album , Watch the Throne ( 2011 ) . The song was rumored to be released as the lead single from the album containing additional vocals by Bruno Mars . However , Mars never appeared on the song and it was sent to urban contemporary radio on August 23 , 2011 .

Musically , " Lift Off " is a pop song which uses baroque strings . It contains a chorus sung by Beyoncé , while other verses are sung by West and Jay @-@ Z in a rap style . Instrumentally , the song is completed with synthesizers , martial drums and horns . " Lift Off " received mixed to positive reviews from music critics who highlighted the song and praised its hook as well as Beyoncé 's vocals . The song peaked at number one on the South Korea Gaon International Chart and number twenty one on the US Billboard Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles chart . " Lift Off " was performed live by Jay @-@ Z and Kanye West during their tour in promotion of Watch the Throne titled Watch the Throne Tour ( 2011 ? 12 ) .

= = Background and composition = =

" Lift Off " was written by Kanye West , Jay @-@ Z , Jeff Bhasker , Mike Dean , Bruno Mars and Seal , while production was handled by West , Bhasker , Mike Dean , Q @-@ Tip and Don Jazzy . The song was recorded in Sydney , Australia . In early May 2011 , it was rumored that Bruno Mars recorded vocals for the song along with Beyoncé and it was reported that the song would be released as the lead single from the album . However , Mars never appeared on the song and Beyoncé sang several lines during the chorus instead . In February , 2011 , Kanye West and Jay @-@ Z held a party at the AMNH 's Hayden Planetarium . During the party , " Lift Off " was one of the previewed songs . It was described as a " standout track " on the album by a writer for Vulture .

" Lift Off " is a pop song mainly in 6 / 8 time , which features baroque strings and a chorus sung by Beyoncé , accompanied with synthesizers . The song contains horns and martial drums as Beyoncé sings , " We gon ' take it to the moon / Take it to the stars . " Throughout the song West 's vocals are enhanced by Auto @-@ Tune in some places . Seal provides backing vocals in the song , which according to Jon Caramanica of The New York Times were " impossible @-@ to @-@ notice " . In the song , Beyoncé sings about having " so many scars " and " taking this whole thing to the stars . " Jeff Weiss of The Hollywood Reporter found an " old NASA movie sample and Kanye showing off his tattoos and inflexible singing voice . " Simon Price of The Independent found neurofunk influences on " Lift Off " . A writer of The Guardian compared the synthesizers in the song with the song " The Final Countdown " ( 1986 ) by Swedish rock band Europe .

" Lift Off " was sent to urban contemporary radio in the United States on August 23 , 2011 . According to several media , the song was very popular on Twitter and across the Internet , becoming a trending topic . According to Billboard magazine , Jay @-@ Z suggested that a music video for the song could appear .

= = Critical reception = =

" Lift Off " received mixed to positive reviews from music critics . Before the song was released , MTV News ' Alvin Blanco heard a preview of the song and described it as " resounding ... sounds like it was tailor @-@ made to be performed in large stadiums . " Kyle Anderson of Entertainment Weekly wrote that the song " is rescued by Beyoncé , who whips the chorus with a belt so powerful you 'd think it insulted her mother . " Slant Magazine 's Matthew Cole also praised the song writing , " ' Lift Off ' is a study in stylized blockbuster excess , with West 's best fanfare since Encore eventually being drowned out by a simulated rocket launch that will sound awesome in your car stereo provided it doesn 't cause your subwoofers to bust your windows . " Rob Harvilla of Spin

found a " hook so ridiculous ( ' We gon take it to the moon / Take it to the stars ! ' ) that only Beyoncé could sell it . " Michaelangelo Matos of The Guardian praised the song calling it " bombastic " . Digital Spy 's Robert Copsey put " Lift Off " on his list of " Tracks to download " from the album . Evening Standard 's John Aizlewood called the song " rocket @-@ propelled " . Rolling Stone 's Matthew Perpetua commented : " Beyoncé joins the boys for a synth @-@ heavy banger that takes off like a rocket and eventually arrives at a spacey , blissful resolution . It all but demands a sci @-@ fi music video featuring Beyoncé as a sexy astronaut . "

David Amidon of PopMatters praised the hook of the song but said that it contained Jay @-@ Z 's " most disturbingly maudlin delivery " since the song " Pray " from American Gangster ( 2006 ) . Jason Lipshutz of Billboard praised the song , calling it an " uptempo Watch the Throne highlight " . Another writer for Billboard , Erika Ramírez , wrote : " Although it feels misplaced in between tracks 1 and 3 , the ' stadium status ' track is one to look forward to in seeing performed on the WTT tour . " Jeff Weiss of The Hollywood Reporter wrote that the song isn 't " as Glee @-@ ready as ' Empire State of Mind ' " . Andy Hutchins writing for The Village Voice said that " ' Lift Off ' isn 't a hit " by concluding " Beyoncé dominates ; Kanye sounds half @-@ invested at best ; and Jay 's presence is limited to four bars , one a Dale Earnhardt reference . " Dan Aquilante of New York Post commented that the song was " slightly vapid but destined for radio ... an optimistic piece in which Beyoncé ... hits the booster rockets repeatedly " . IGN 's Chad Grischow wrote " the song is actually the least compelling of the album , sounding far more interesting when the heavy bass thump finally strips away late for a great piano melody and bongo fuelled beat . " Joey Guerra of the Houston Chronicle said that Beyoncé 's vocals were " confident " throughout the " grand , athletic and anthemic " song .

The song also received some negative reviews . In his review of Watch the Throne , Andy Kellman of Allmusic wrote , " The lowest point is ' Lift Off ' , a bombastic mess ; West ? s stillborn , sung vocal clashes against a triumphant hook from Beyoncé , while the behind @-@ the @-@ scenes cast ... overcook a regal and rugged , yet ultimately muddled , production " . Jayson Rodriguez of XXL said that " ' Lift Off ' feels too airy on a project this heavy " . Chicago Tribune writer Greg Kot described Beyoncé 's vocals as " disengaged " . Calling the song a " letdown " , Tyrone S. Reid of Seattle Post @-@ Intelligencer wrote that " even with Beyoncé supplying the hook , ' Lift Off ' is dismal " .

= = Live performances = =

" Lift Off " was included in the set list of the Watch the Throne Tour ( 2011 ? 12 ) by Jay @-@ Z and Kanye West . David Peisner of Spin magazine noted that the rappers didn 't sing their lines during the performance , but ad @-@ libbed over the backing track . The Orange County Register 's Ben Wener noted that the song was " annoyingly abbreviated : [ it ] barely registered a blip toward the end " . " Lift Off " was also part of the set list of Beyoncé and Jay @-@ Z 's co @-@ headlining On the Run Tour ( 2014 ) where it was performed as the last song .

= = Chart performance = =

Before its release as a single , the song charted at number eighty one on the Australian Singles Chart for the week of August 15 , 2011 , and peaked at number one on the South Korea Gaon International Chart . " Lift Off " became the forty third best @-@ selling single in South Korea in 2011 . On the chart issue dated August 20 , 2011 " Lift Off " debuted at number forty eight on the UK Singles Chart . It did not enter the US Billboard Hot 100 , but peaked at number twenty on the Billboard Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles chart , which acts as a twenty five @-@ song extension to the Hot 100 .

= = Usage in media = =

In July 2012 , American rapper J. Cole sampled " Lift Off " on his song " The Cure " .

== Charts ==