

= Little Things (One Direction song) =

" Little Things " is a song by English @-@ Irish boy band One Direction from their second studio album , Take Me Home (2012) . It was released by Syco Music on 3 December 2012 , as the record 's second single . The song was written by Fiona Bevan and Ed Sheeran , and produced by Jake Gosling . Bevan brought the song to Sheeran 's attention while he was in studio with the group in 2012 , resulting in the band recording it . " Little Things " is a mid @-@ tempo pop and folk ballad about the insistence that flaws are what make a person unique .

The track received mixed to negative reviews from contemporary music critics , many of whom felt that the song is not tailored to them . The song became the group 's second number @-@ one hit in the United Kingdom , while reaching the top ten in Australia , Ireland , and New Zealand . In addition , it attained top forty positions in Belgium (Wallonia) , Canada , Denmark , Sweden , Switzerland , and the United States . The single has been certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for shipments of 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 copies .

Directed by Vaughan Arnell , the accompanying music video was shot in black @-@ and @-@ white and consists of a simplistic concept ? One Direction recording the song . Upon release , it received positive reviews from reviewers , who noted that it was a perfect accompaniment for the song . The band performed the track on both the UK and US versions of The X Factor and during their 3 major conert tours : Take Me Home Tour (2013) , Where We Are Tour (2014) and On the Road Again Tour (2015) .

= = Background and conception = =

" Little Things " was written by British singer @-@ songwriters Ed Sheeran and Fiona Bevan , and produced by Jake Gosling . In February 2012 , One Direction expressed interest in working with Sheeran for their second studio album . In June 2012 , Sheeran disclosed that One Direction would be recording two of his songs . In October 2012 , Sheeran acknowledged Bevan 's songwriting credit in an interview with British radio network Capital FM : " The great thing about it is I wrote that song with a girl called Fiona Bevan when I was 17 and we lost the song . I 've kept in touch with Fiona , we 've done gigs and stuff and about two months ago she sent me the tune and was like , ' Oh , do you remember this ? ' I was like , ' Yeah , I do remember that ' , and I was in the studio with the One Direction boys at the time and I was playing it and they were like , ' We really like that ' . It 's got one of my favourite lines that I 've ever written in a song . " On 15 October 2012 , Louis Tomlinson confirmed via social networking website Twitter that " Little Things " would serve as the second single of their second studio album Take Me Home .

= = Composition and lyrics = =

" Little Things " is a mid @-@ tempo pop and folk ballad which runs for 3 : 39 (3 minutes , 39 seconds) . Written in the key of G major , the beat is set in common time and moves at a moderate 110 beats per minute . One Direction 's vocal range in the song span from the note of A3 to D5 . Instrumentation includes guitar strings , piano lines and vocals . The song utilises an acoustic guitar riff and a rotation of lead vocals . The song 's lyrics revolve around the insistence that flaws are what make a person unique . In a September 2012 interview with MTV News , Sheeran quipped that the song " is about the best things about someone , kind of like the things you wouldn 't expect . " He described " Little Things " as an " appreciation song , " and concluded : " Seventeen @-@ year @-@ old Ed just wrote a lot of love songs " .

= = Critical reception = =

" Little Things " received mixed to negative reviews from music critics . Grady Smith for Entertainment Weekly described its lyricism as " terribly misguided " for One Direction 's target audience . Melinda Newman of HitFix , polarised by its lyrical content , wrote that women want men

to pretend their flaws do not exist and not see them . Both Kate Wills of The Independent and Rolling Stone writer Jon Dolan criticised the lyrical content as jarring . Although Bill Lamb of About.com shared Smith 's sentiment , he favoured Gosling 's " beautiful " production of the song and the group 's " top notch " vocal performance . Al Fox of BBC Music , who noted a " pursuit for credibility " , felt that One Direction were " handing in their identity " with " Little Things " . Jon Caramanica of The New York Times dismissed Sheeran 's songwriting as " unusually lumpy in the hands of such a polished group " . In contrast , Alexis Petridis for The Guardian described the track as " noticeably more sophisticated lyrically and emotionally than anything else on the album . " The Boston Globe editor Sarah Rodman selected the " essential " song as the album 's " best " attribute , and Matt Collar from AllMusic considered the ballad " an air of maturity to One Direction 's admittedly squeaky @-@ fresh sound . " Robert Copsey of Digital Spy felt that " Little Things " can be interpreted as " minor signs of growth " for the boy band .

= = Commercial performance = =

" Little Things " made its Irish Singles Chart debut at number two in the week ending 15 November 2012 , marking One Direction 's fifth top @-@ ten hit in Ireland . The track debuted at number one on the UK Singles Chart on 18 November 2012 , becoming One Direction 's second number @-@ one hit in the United Kingdom . Their second studio album Take Me Home and the single both debuted simultaneously at number one in the UK , making One Direction the youngest act in British chart history to achieve the feat . In addition , the song became a top forty hit in Belgium (Wallonia) , Denmark , Sweden , and Switzerland . It became their third song to attain a top @-@ forty position in both Sweden and Belgium (Wallonia) . Elsewhere in Europe , the song charted in lower regions on the singles charts of Austria , Belgium (Flanders) , France , Germany , and Slovakia .

The single bowed at number nine on the Australian Singles Chart of 25 November 2012 , marking its peak position and the group 's fourth top ten hit in Australia . It held that position for a second week and has been certified triple platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) , denoting shipments of 210 @,@ 000 copies . The track made its New Zealand Singles Chart debut at number two on 19 November 2012 , denoting its highest charting position and the quintet 's third top five appearance in New Zealand . " Little Things " has received a gold certification from the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand (RIANZ) , indicating sales of 7 @,@ 500 copies .

The ballad became One Direction 's fourth top forty hit on the Canadian Hot 100 , peaking at number 20 . In the week ending 18 November 2012 , " Little Things " debuted on the United States Billboard Hot 100 at number 41 , selling 91 @,@ 000 copies in its first week . As a result of an " end @-@ of @-@ year download rush " in the week ending 30 December 2012 , the single 's weekly sales rose 189 % from the previous week to 153 @,@ 000 copies sold . The sales rise signified a new peak of number 33 on the Hot 100 by the single 's seventh charting week . The track marks the boy band 's fourth top forty hit on the Hot 100 and also attained positions on the Pop Songs and Hot 100 Airplay charts , peaking at numbers 19 and 61 , respectively . " Little Things " had sold 502 @,@ 000 copies in the United States by 7 January 2013 . The single was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) on 9 May 2013 , denoting shipments of 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 copies .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Little Things " was shot entirely in black @-@ and @-@ white and directed by Vaughan Arnell , who had previously directed the band 's music video for their previous single " Live While We 're Young " . Tomlinson disclosed via social networking website Twitter that an accompanying music video for " Little Things " was in production on 15 October 2012 . Band member Zayn Malik confirmed that they had finished filming the video the following day . On each of the five days preceding the video 's premiere , One Direction posted a teaser trailer of the video online . Each teaser showed footage from the video and behind the scenes , and one member of the band announcing how many days were left until the video premiere . The official video was

uploaded to their Vevo account on YouTube on 2 November 2012 .

The music video consists of a simplistic concept ? a One Direction recording session . In a November 2012 interview with MTV News , Arnell said he did not want to make it about anything more than that , " When I first heard the track , the mix on it was so simple and so pure and you could hear all the qualities of the voices on the track , I just wanted to come up with something that when the viewer watched it , it was almost like sitting there listening to the boys sing the track . " Arnell subsequently developed the idea of a recording studio setting , thinking that it was " the most pure way to do it " . He wanted to make the music video as " uncontrived as possible " without " any other bullsh-- or effects in the way of it . " While Arnell conceded that music video may seem like a simple concept , the shoot itself took over twelve hours to complete and said that it was " one of the hardest things I 've ever done . " The group performed it " over and over again because I was just trying to get different shots , different angles , different qualities . " As for the decision to shoot the video in black @-@ and @-@ white , Arnell felt it best captured the essence of the ballad . He also noted that was his intention to give the music video the feeling as if One Direction are singing it right to you , " It 's purely about the clarity of it . When you sit there watching it , it 's almost like these little bits of eye contact [and] you really feel like the guys are singing it to you . "

Upon release , ' # LittleThingsOnVEVO ' became the number @-@ one trending topic worldwide on social networking website Twitter . Following the release of the music video for " Little Things " and its accompanying teaser videos , One Direction posted a 138 % increase in Vevo plays and a 159 % increase in Facebook reaction in the United States . As a result of the video schedule , the group topped Billboard 's Social 50 chart for the first time in their 52nd week on the chart , rising 10 @-@ 1 from the previous week . Jocelyn Vena of MTV News characterised it as a straightforward video , which has a " quiet tone " that " complements the ballad 's sentimental lyrics . " Sam Lanksy for Idolator called it " sweet and subdued " and noted that the video is a significant transition from the " over @-@ the @-@ top jubilation " of their " Live While We 're Young " video , writing that the contrast " is nice ? even if the ultimate effect is a little sleepy . " A reviewer of The Huffington Post favoured " the low @-@ key , laid @-@ back " approach to the video and concluded that the " intimate feel of the video perfectly accompanies the songs ' sweet lyrics " . An editor for Capital FM highlighted sequences in which the boy band " share individual emotionally charged scenes . "

= = Live performances = =

One Direction performed " Little Things " and " Live While We 're Young " on The X Factor USA (8 November) , and " Little Things " on The X Factor UK (11 November) . The band performed the song along with " What Makes You Beautiful " , " Live While We 're Young " , and " Kiss You " on The Today Show at the Rockefeller Center (13 November) , to a record crowd estimated at 15 @,@ 000 . They performed " Live While We 're Young " and " Little Things " on the BBC 's Children in Need 2012 telethon (16 November) . In addition , they performed " Little Things " on British television series Surprise , Surprise (18 November - Recorded 21 October) , at the 2012 Royal Variety Performance (19 November) , in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II , and on The X Factor Australia (20 November) . " Little Things " was included on the set list of the group 's headlining sold @-@ out show at Madison Square Garden (3 December) . They also performed 3 major concert tours : Take Me Home Tour (2013) , Where We Are Tour (2014) & On the Road Again Tour (2015) .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Ed Sheeran ? writing

Fiona Bevan ? writing

Tommy Culm ? backing vocals

Jake Gosling ? production

Chris Leonard ? guitar

Credits adapted from Take Me Home 's liner notes .

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Release history = =